

K. Academies *Do. V. 1000*
A COMPLETE 4735
COLLECTION
OF THE
PAPERS
RELATING TO THE
UNION
OF THE
King's and Marischal Colleges
OF
ABERDEEN:

CONTAINING, NOT ONLY THOSE ALREADY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY, BUT ALSO SEVERAL ORIGINAL PAPERS, AND MANY BY ANONYMOUS WRITERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION.

Pro.

————— *Unam faciemus utramque
Urbem animis.*

Contra.

————— *Maneat nostros ea cura nepotes.*

ABERDEEN:

PRINTED BY A. LEIGHTON,
FOR A. SHIRREFS, BOOKSELLER, AND A. LEIGHTON, PRINTER;
SOLD BY THEM; BY P. ELMSLEY, BOOKSELLER,
STRAND, LONDON; BY E. BALFOUR, C.
ELLIOT, AND J. BELL, BOOKSEL-
LERS, EDINBURGH; AND BY
ALL OTHER BOOKSELLERS
IN SCOTLAND.

1787.



To the English Reader.

For.

Let us unite these two Universities into one.

Against.

No—let our sons and grandsons be first provided for—and then.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Editors of this Collection have spared no pains to make it as complete as possible for so low a price, by inserting every Paper on either side, whether anonymous or avowed, that appeared necessary to the right understanding of the subject. They have also been enabled to include in it several Memorials and Essays hitherto unpublished, which it is hoped will be equally acceptable to those who wish to form *a just Estimate of the expediency, justice, and legality of a Scheme so often agitated, and in which all the North of Scotland is so highly interested.*

The only Paper published from authority, not to be found here, is AN ESTIMATE &c. OF THE PLAN OF UNION, by the Professors of King's College, which from it's great length would have swelled out this Collection to such a size, and so far increased the expence, as might have been inconvenient for many purchasers. But if from the encouragement given to the present Work, the Editors shall have reason to believe, that an Impression of it in this form would also be agreeable to the public,
it

it may be added hereafter.—For as they are still in possession of several papers on this subject, that are well deserving of being preserved, and as they expect to be further favoured with some others of equal importance, they have already begun to prepare an APPENDIX to this Collection, which will soon be published in the same size, and at as low a price as can be afforded.

9 NO 59

COLLECTION

OF

PAPERS, &c.

*Extract of a Letter to the Public from Principal
Chalmers, by appointment of the University of
of Old Aberdeen, dated King's College, 5th
February, 1755.*

AN UNION of the King's and Marischal Colleges
of Aberdeen, has been often projected; and, if it
could be accomplished upon a reasonable Plan, it might
be of great consequence to education in this part of the
kingdom. But the attempts that have been made of late
for bringing about this Union, seem to give no prospect of
success, unless the parties having concern will lay aside
their confined and interested views, and give way to a
more general and public good.

ARTICLES

ARTICLES OF UNION, *agreed upon betwixt the Principals and Masters of the King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen, referred to in the above Letter, and written by DR. ALEXANDER GERARD, Clerk to the conjunct meeting, 1754.*

I. **T**HAT the Funds of both Colleges be incorporated into one common stock.

II. That the Professions in the United College be the same as in the King's College at present, with the addition only of a Professor of Mathematics.

III. That each of the Professors in the United College have an addition of Thirty Pounds sterling yearly to his salary, except the Professor of Mathematics, who, because his present salary is considerably better than those of the Regents, shall have only such an addition, as to put his salary on a level with theirs.

IV. Because the Union cannot be completed, while there are two sets of Professors, till the one half shall either die out or resign, it is agreed, that the three Philosophy Classes in the King's College be fixed; and if the Professors who shall then happen to be opposed to one another, cannot adjust matters between themselves, so as one of them may give up teaching, that they shall teach for a year by turns, the senior member having his choice of the vice, and the Principals and Professors of Greek shall officiate in the same manner.

V. That in double Professions, the Professor who does not teach, shall have, besides his salary, one fourth share of the profits of the class that is taught by the Professor opposite to him.

VI. That each of the present Masters shall have the same interest during his incumbency, in the revenue of that College of which he is now a member, that he has at present, and right to all the increase or profits that he could have had from the same, if no Union had taken place; that is, that every Master in the Marischal College shall be entitled not only to the whole profits of his present locality, but to any improvement that may be made of it during his incumbency;—and that every Master in the King's College shall

shall have right, not only to the present locality, but to his tenth share of any augmentation, that the present revenue, or any future improvement of that revenue, may admit of, during his incumbency.

VII. That in double professions, upon the death of any of the present incumbents, the least of the two salaries shall fall into the common stock, and be divided equally among the survivors.

VIII. Till the Union be completed, when a vacancy happens, if there are two Professors opposed to one another, the survivor shall have right to the vacant office, and shall be called to accept of it ; and if he refuses to accept, then he shall forfeit his right to the office and salary, and his salary shall immediately fall into the common stock. If there are not two opposite Professors, the vacancy shall be supplied either by the College, or the proper Patron, out of the United body, if any of them shall be judged qualified for the vacant office.

IX. That the offices of Principal, the three Professors of Philosophy, and the Professor of Greek, be presented to by the Crown and by the United College by turns, as they shall happen to fall, and the Crown to have the first vice: The Professor of Hebrew to be presented by the Crown and Sir Alexander Ramsay, by turns ; the Professor of Divinity to be presented by the Town of Aberdeen, and by the Delegates from the Synod, in conjunction with the Delegates from the College, by turns ; the Professors of Civil Law, Medicine, and Humanity, to be presented by the United College. The Professor of Mathematics by the Town of Aberdeen and the United College by turns.

X. That the funds belonging to the Buildings be separated from the common stock, and that besides the casualties of vacant stipends, a sum of

shall be set apart yearly, out of the common revenue, for upholding and carrying on the necessary Buildings.

XI. That every Intransigent into the Society shall be liable to pay into this stock half a year's salary, and that the time for electing and presenting be prolonged, so as not to exceed half a year, and that every Patron shall present within half a year, otherwise the right of election and presentation shall for that vice devolve to the College.

XII. That

of XII. That every Professor shall have a house, as soon as the funds will permit.

We the Principals and Masters of the King's and Marischal Colleges subscribing, do unanimously agree to the preceding articles, as the general foundation of an Union of our funds and professions: and because several difficulties may occur in the management of this affair, which we cannot foresee or provide for at present, it is unanimously agreed that no question relating to the seat of the united College shall be moved, but that every other question relating to the prosecution of this Union, shall be determined by the majority of voices in a conjunct meeting of both Colleges; and that the opinion of the majority shall be considered as the opinion of the conjunct meeting. And it is further expressly provided that in every question, it shall be lawful for any member to transmit his opinion in writing, and that his vote, given up in that manner, shall be sustained and numbered as if he were present, and did personally attend the meeting. In testimony whereof we have subscribed these presents at Aberdeen, the eight day of November, in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four.

(So signed)

JO. CHALMERS, Principal of King's College.

George Gordon, Professor of Oriental Languages.

RODR. MACLEOD, professor of Philosophy.

THOS. REID, Professor of Philosophy.

THOS. GORDON, Professor of Humanity.

JOHN LESLIE, Professor of Greek.

AL. BURNET, Sub-Principal.

JO. LUMSDEN. *S. T. P. — dyed 1770*

James Gregorie, Professor of Medicine.

James Catanach, Civilist.

T. Blackwell, Principal of Marischal College.

Francis Skene, P. P.—

ALEXR. GERARD, P. P.—

ROBT. POLLOCK, S. T. P.—

James Donaldson, L. L. O. O. P.—

John Stewart, Math. P.—

Will. Duncan, P. P.—

Ja. Gordon, M. D. and P.—

Extracted

Extracted from the original articles of Union on this, and the two preceding pages by

(Signed)

ALEXR. GERARD, Clerk to the conjunct meeting.

" At the same time they agreed to write a letter to the Duke of Argyle, soliciting his interest and direction in carrying on and bringing to an issue the Union of the two Colleges; the tenor whereof follows :"

Aberdeen 8th, November, 1754.

MY LORD DUKE,

THE Members of King's and Marischal Colleges presumed some years ago to transmit a Memorial concerning the Union of these Colleges into one University. They then met with some difficulties among themselves. But of late having resumed the consideration of a measure of such consequence to a well-digested education, they are so happy as to have adjusted their matters and agreed upon articles of Union; and hereby humbly beg your Grace's direction and influence for carrying their scheme into execution.

We are now employed in drawing up our joint Memorial concerning our Professions, Funds, and the rights and endowments of the several Patrons. This Memorial containing likewise the articles of Union, waits your Grace's leave and leisure.

We are much obliged to Mr. Middleton of Seaton, who has promised to represent our present harmony and readiness to effectuate this Union under your Grace's direction, in such a manner as may best promote the interests of learning.

We have the honour to be &c.

(Subscribed by all the Members of both Colleges, as before.)

REASONS.

REASONS AND PROPOSALS FOR AN UNION of the
King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen, written by
PROFESSOR THOMAS GORDON, in the year 1770.

THE impropriety of two Universities less than a mile distant from one another, is so striking, that all who are not particularly acquainted with the fact, take it for granted that these two Colleges form one University; and Government has considered them as such in several of it's grants, and conjoined them in the exercise of some of their privileges.

In the King's College there is no Professor of Mathematics; in the Marischal College there is no Professor of Laws or of Humanity, and the Professor of Medicine has only 13*l.* or 14*l.* of salary; some Professors, very necessary for a complete course of liberal education, are wanting in both: and at the same time there are unnecessarily two sets of Professors in several branches of science, giving the same courses.

The salaries of the Professors in both are very small, which must be a discouragement to men of learning and abilities accepting of vacant Professorships, and has actually in several instances induced Professors to remove from both the Colleges of Aberdeen, to places where they could be less meanly provided. And there is not in either College a sufficient fund for supporting and enlarging the buildings, which must have been in ruins long ago, if seasonable donations had not been made to the Colleges, and if the masters had not themselves at different times, contributed to the support of them.

In order to remedy the inconveniences which attend the present state of these Colleges, and to provide for a more complete plan of education, the most effectual method seems to be an Union of both into one seminary, and for carrying this into execution, the following propofals are submitted to the confideration of those concerned.

I. From and after the day of
the King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen, shall be
united into one University, to be named THE UNIVER-
SITY OF ABERDEEN: and all the lands, tenements,
annual rents, tithes, rents, revenues, hereditaments, and
all

all goods and chattles, and all burfaries and patronages belonging to the faid two Colleges or either of them, fhall belong to the Univerfity, and fhall be under the management of the Principal and other mafters thereof, and the yearly produce of the whole funds for payment of the falaries of the Principal and Profefors of the faid Univerfity, together with the fum of 2101 ſterling of annual bounty, as long as his Majeſty fhall continue the ſame, fhall be joined into one common ſtock, and be levied for their uſe by ſuch factor as fhall be appointed by ſaid Principal and Maſters, or major part of them: reſerving to the faid Univerfity all ſuch powers and privileges as did formerly belong to both or either of the faid Colleges.

II. The Univerfity fhall conſiſt of, at leaſt, a Principal and eleven Profefors, one of Divinity, one of Oriental Languages, one of Law, one of Medicine, one of Anatomy, one of Mathematics, one of Humanity, Rhetoric and the Belles Lettres, one of Greek, and three of Philoſophy viz. one of Pneumatics, Moral Philoſophy and Logic, one of Natural and Experimental Philoſophy, and one of Natural Hiſtory, Geography and Chronology.

III. The Profefors of Medicine, Anatomy, Mathematics, Natural Philoſophy, Natural Hiſtory, and Greek, fhall be fixed in New Aberdeen, where the Mariſchal College preſently is; the Principal, the Profefors of Divinity, Oriental Languages, Law, Moral Philoſophy and Humanity fhall be appointed in the King's College in Old Aberdeen: any new Profefors, hereafter to be created, fhall open their Lectures in either town, or in both, as fhall be judged moſt proper by the Univerfity. The meetings for the trial for burfaries fhall be held in the Mariſchal College, and the other Univerfity Meetings in either College, as they fhall be called by the Principal, or appointed at a previous Meeting.

IV. The Right Honourable the Earls of Finlater and Bute fhall be joint Chancellors and the ſurvivor, ſole Chancellor of the Univerfity: and the Rectors of the Univerfity and his Aſſeſſors fhall be elected by the Principal and Profefors on the firſt lawful day of March annually.

V. All the preſent incumbents in both Colleges fhall be entitled, during their life, to their preſent ſalaries, and to all

all the improvements and augmentations of them to which they would have been entitled if no Union had taken place; the present Principals shall be joint Principals of the University, and shall officiate by months, or by sessions, alternately, and the Principal of the King's College shall have the precedence: The three Professors of Philosophy in the King's College, shall be fixed to separate departments, corresponding to those in the Marischal College, and the two Professors who shall then be colleagues in the same department, as well as the two Professors of Greek, shall adjust matters between themselves, so that one of them may give up teaching, retaining his salary, and being entitled either to such part of the profits of the class taught by his Colleague, or to such other consideration either annually, or in a sum payable at once, as they can agree upon. But if neither of them chuses to retire, or if they cannot agree on terms for that purpose, they shall teach by sessions alternately, the senior Member having his choice of the vice, and each enjoying only his salary for the year in which he does not teach; and if both should incline to retire, the senior Member shall have his choice. All other Professors in both Colleges shall continue to enjoy all the emoluments of their offices as at present, and shall be obliged to reside: All the members of both Colleges, except those who decline officiating altogether, and retire with their salaries and do not reside in either town, shall constitute the faculty, and have a right to vote in the elections, and in every question relating to the University.

VI. That the Union may be completed as soon as possible, which cannot be where there are two sets of incumbents, till the one half either die out or resign; on the death, demission, or translation of one of the present Principals, the other shall become sole Principal: in all offices, where there are two incumbents on the death or removal of one of them, the other shall become sole incumbent, and perform the whole duty of the office. If the officiating Professor of Greek, or any of the officiating Professors of Philosophy shall happen to die or be removed, before the death of his colleague who had retired from teaching, that colleague shall, in six months after intimation is made to him by the University, return to teaching, and to the exercise of his former office, and if he refuse so to do, he shall forfeit the

the salary and all other emoluments which he formerly enjoyed ; and such succession of a Principal or Professor to the whole office on the death or removal of his colleague, shall take place without any new election, presentation, or admission, and he shall immediately enjoy the greater of the two salaries, and the smaller shall fall into the common stock of the University. If a vacancy shall happen before the Union be completed, in any office, where there are not, at the time of such vacancy, two incumbents, it shall be filled up by a Member of the University, if any such be willing to accept of it, and be judged qualified for it by the University, and the salary which he formerly enjoyed shall fall into the common stock ; but the supplying a vacancy in this manner, shall not be reckoned for a vice to that Patron who would have otherwise had a right to fill it, but he shall be entitled to present on the next vacancy : any person at present possessing a plurality of offices in either College shall continue to hold them, till the death or removal of his colleague in one of these offices, on which he shall have it in his power to succeed to the sole enjoyment of that office, but if he declines this, another shall be elected into that office, and the salary which the person declining enjoyed for that office, shall fall into the common stock, and he shall thenceforth enjoy only the salary belonging to his other office, and if his colleague in it shall die or be removed before him, he shall then succeed to the sole enjoyment of it, in the same manner as is above expressed : and whatever salaries come to be vacated from time to time, till the Union be completed, and thereby fall into the common stock of the University, shall be equally divided among all the surviving officiating Members of the University, with the exceptions, and under the limitations after mentioned.

VII. In order to provide for the erection of a Professorship of Anatomy ; if any of the present members duly qualified will accept of that office, and immediately open an Anatomical Lecture, he shall receive his present salary, and be entitled to his equal share of augmentation out of the common stock ; and on the death of his colleague in his former office, he shall have it in his choice, either to resume that office, or to continue Professor of Anatomy ; but if none of the present members accept of the office of Profes-

for of Anatomy on these terms, in that case, as soon as an additional 20l. sterling has been made to the salaries of all the members, such a salary as the faculty shall then think reasonable, shall be provided for a Professor of Anatomy, before any farther division take place, and in all future divisions he shall be entitled to an equal share with the other members.

VIII. As soon as an addition of 30l. sterling has been made to the salaries of all the members, the sum of £. sterling yearly shall be appropriated for supporting and enlarging the buildings, after which it shall be lawful for the University, out of any surplus of their funds, not only to make a farther augmentation of the salaries, but also to appoint Lecturers or Professors in such branches of science as may by them be judged necessary for rendering the course of education more complete, and likewise to augment the bursaries on the foundation : and whereas many of the other bursaries in both Colleges, are so small as to be totally insufficient for the support of a student, it shall be lawful, by the joint consent of the patrons of such bursaries, and the University, but not otherwise, to unite two or more small bursaries together.

IX. The right of patronage and the power of presenting the several Members of the University shall be as follows : the Principal, the Professor of Medicine, the three Professors of Philosophy (alternately as vacancies happen in them, whatever the particular Professor of Philosophy be) and the Professor of Greek shall be presented by his Majesty and the University by turns ; but no person shall be nominated or presented to be principal, who is not at the time of the nomination, either a Doctor of Divinity, a Minister of the established church of Scotland, or a Professor in this or some other University. The Professor of Oriental Languages by his Majesty and Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain, by turns ; the Professor of Divinity by the town of Aberdeen, and by the Synod of Aberdeen, and the University, by turns ; the Professor of Mathematics by the town of Aberdeen in terms of Dr. Liddel's mortification ; the Professors of Law, Anatomy and Humanity, together with such other Professors and Lecturers as may be hereafter endowed out of the United Funds, by the University. But no plurality of offices shall hereafter be on any account admitted in the University, but

But any member, whether officiating or nonofficiating, accepting of an office within the University, to which a salary is annexed shall *ipso facto* vacate the office which he formerly held, and forfeit all title to the salary and emoluments thereof: Every Patron of any of the aforesaid offices shall present within half a year from the date of the vacancy, otherwise the University shall have the right of election and presentation for that vice; and when the right of election and presentation is in the University, the meeting for election shall be appointed and entered in the minutes at a previous meeting, at least one month before the meeting for election; but if the University does not elect within six months after a vacancy shall happen, the right of presentation shall fall to his Majesty for that vice. The Principal and Professors of the University shall have in all cases the right of admission, and of taking trial of the qualifications of such as are presented.

X. As each of the two Colleges, being a separate University, has at present a right of sending a representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the University shall henceforth have a right of sending two representatives, who may be both ministers, or both elders, or one a minister and one an elder.

E X T R A C T

From a Memorial concerning the Union of the Colleges, written by Mr. G. then a Member of Marischal College, never before published.

IT is acknowledged by the Members of the Marischal College, that all the students cannot be lodged within the College, and they look upon it as a very important advantage in their situation, that they are under no necessity of introducing this monastic method. They believe and know that it is attended with the very worst consequences both as to the learning and morals of students; and they found their opinion on the universal experience of it's consequences wherever it has been practised. The huddling of students into a College is like the confining of Friars in a Convent, which excites the inclination to vice, instead of repressing it, and when they can get rid of this confinement

sement, they plunge the more greedily into lasciviousness. Such a confinement is also the very worst preparation for life and business, and is the direct opposite to what we understand by a liberal education.—Old Aberdeen is so near (New Aberdeen) that students of the King's College crowd over to it every day, and are in fact as much engaged in amusements and public diversions as the students of Marischal College. And that village is inhabited by the lowest people, and those of the most corrupt manners, so that by living in it students are exposed to all the inconveniencies thence arising, at the same time that they are as liable to all avocations to be met with in Aberdeen, as if they lived in it. The maxim of the foundation of the King's College is a maxim for a Convent, such as might be expected from Monks its founders, and experience has shewn the vanity of it.

The Masters of the Marischal College are persuaded that their removing to Old Aberdeen would be in many respects prejudicial to their private interest. In particular the teaching Masters of the King's College will be much greater gainers by having the seat of the United College in New Aberdeen, than those of the Marischal College could be the other way, for there are near 120 students at the Marischal College, and not above half that number at the King's. Therefore those of the Old Town receive a much greater advantage the one way, than the others could do the other way.

But these small accidental inconveniencies they think too trifling to be once mentioned in a matter of such public importance as the Union of the two Colleges. It was this consideration that determined them to confine their former Memorial to the consequences of the seat on education, and having now farther shewn that fixing it to New Aberdeen is not in fact prejudicial to the public funds of the College, or to the interests of the present incumbents, they shall only beg leave farther to observe, that if there were presently no College either in Old or New Aberdeen, and if one were to be erected either in the one or the other, they imagine it would without any hesitation be determined to New Aberdeen. And the same may now be done on the same principles, the consequences to the funds being such as they have been above represented.

OUTLINES

OUTLINES OF A PLAN

FOR

UNITING THE KING'S AND MARISCHAL
UNIVERSITIES OF ABERDEEN, with a
View to render the System of Education
more complete.

VARIOUS reports have been circulated of late, respecting an intended PLAN of UNITING the Two COLLEGES of ABERDEEN; and not a few mistaken apprehensions have been entertained on that head.

It has become requisite, therefore, that some account of what is really wished for, and has been attempted by those who favour that plan, should be laid before the public.

That two independent Universities, endowed with the amplest privileges of teaching and conferring degrees in all the Sciences, should be seated within a mile of each other, must appear, at first view, some what absurd.

It is still more so, that two sets of Professors should be employed in these Universities, in teaching the same Elements of Philosophy, and of the Greek Language, to thin Classes; while other branches of science, generally accounted necessary in academical education, are taught by no Professor in either.

Between these neighbouring Universities certain jealousies are apt, at times, to arise: a rivalry, not of the most liberal kind, and not to be carried on by the efforts of learned industry alone, has been known to subsist: on more occasions than one, it has been found impracticable to regulate the internal discipline of the one, without the concurrence of the other, which, in their separate state, is not always to be expected.

These, and other reasons, have, long ago, given rise to a wish, that both might be united into one respectable University,

versity, on the same footing with the other Universities of Scotland; and the opinion entertained of the good consequences of such a measure has been confirmed, by a late Union of two Colleges in St. Andrews.

Accordingly, in the year 1754, a Plan of Union was concerted, with the unanimous consent of both Societies, and of other parties concerned; only the seat of the united University was left undetermined, and referred, by arbitration, to the judgment of a respectable nobleman in whom all had justly reposed confidence. But some misunderstanding having afterwards arisen among the parties, the whole scheme was suffered to fall to the ground at that time.

In the year 1770, it having been suggested, that all difficulties, with regard to the seat of the University, might be avoided, a new Plan was drawn up, on a model somewhat more extensive than the former: it was discussed in private, with very general approbation and concurrence of all parties concerned, and of many competent judges, to whom it was submitted: but as a perfect unanimity among the Professors could not be obtained, this plan, likewise, was relinquished, until some more favourable juncture should occur.

Still it remained a subject of regret, to those who valued the interests of Literature, and were acquainted with that spirit, and success, with which Academical Education is conducted at Edinburgh and Glasgow, that any plan, which might have brought Aberdeen nearer to the same standard, had been suffered to miscarry.

Among such persons, good wishes were frequently expressed, and enquiries were, from time to time, made, concerning the hope of seeing it again revived.

Animated by their knowledge of these general wishes, and more particularly, animated by the approbation of some persons of high rank and consideration, a few Members of each College began, during last summer, to compare together their opinions, concerning the advantages to be derived from an Union of the Colleges, and concerning the probability of getting it accomplished at this time.

As to the advantages to be derived from an Union, they were persuaded, that, by bringing together greater numbers

numbers of students to attend the same classes, a greater spirit of study and application might be excited among them; as appears evidently from that ardour and diligence, with which young men are known to pursue their studies, in those Universities, where the classes are most numerous. They were convinced also, that Schools of Medicine, and of Law, might be established in the united University, with every hope of success.

In the present disjointed state of the two Colleges, indeed, it would answer no good purpose to open schools of medicine or law, in either College. Yet the great number of young men, that are bred to each of these professions, and the great distance from Edinburgh, the principal school of both, together with the advantage of an excellent Infirmary for Medical Students, seems to encourage, and even to require it.

If, in the University of Glasgow, medical and law classes are well attended, and prove of no small utility to the youth of the Western Counties, there seems reason to hope, that they might flourish here also, and be found of like utility to a more extensive part of the country, more remote from Edinburgh, and which is supposed to breed, at least, an equal number of young men to the profession of medicine, and a far greater number to that of law.

They supposed also, that if a greater number of classes were opened, and the teachers excited by a greater concourse of students, it might happen, as elsewhere, that the more ingenious part of those students might find inducements to continue their residence in the University, after obtaining a Degree in Arts; to attend repeated Courses of Lectures, and to prosecute their studies in various branches, beyond that superficial and merely elementary education, with which they are at present contented.

The Libraries, the Museums, the Observatories, and Botanical Gardens, that belong to, or may be set on foot, by either College separately, must long remain scantily endowed, and incomplete; whereas, were their respective Funds united, these repositories might soon become, if not splendid, at least handsomely furnished for this corner of the kingdom, and well adapted to excite, and to gratify, the liberal curiosity of youth.

* As to the hopes of success, in endeavouring to accomplish an Union of the Colleges, at this time, it seemed probable, from the late increase of Science and Literature in this country, and from the attention now paid to their interests, that any plan of that kind would be supported by the public favour, in a more decisive manner than in former times.

But, unforeseen accidents might occur; and it was fit to consider, to what new measures and expedients recourse might be had, should any difficulties, like that concerning the seat, which had proved fatal to the first scheme, arise; or should any individuals adhere to their private objections, in opposition to a measure acknowledged to be of general utility.

As arbitration had been found ineffectual, it occurred, that we might, without impropriety, make application to the Crown, for an appointment of Visitors, by whose interposition, all unreasonable obstructions might be removed.

This idea was suggested to various persons, and among others to some of high rank: it met with the approbation of all, tho' every one expressed a hope, that no necessity for any such application would arise.

In the month of September, a Meeting of both Colleges is annually held, and this seemed a proper occasion for reviving the Plan of Uniting the Colleges, and proposing that other meetings, or committees, should be appointed to deliberate upon it at leisure.

But, very unexpectedly, at this meeting, some gentlemen, who had concurred in both the preceding Plans, and had actively promoted them, declared a positive resolution, not to enter into any conference on that which might now be proposed. They said, that the mention made of a Visitation, had rendered the whole scheme improper; and that however desirable an Union of the Colleges might be in itself, all hope of effecting it must now be postponed for a long time.

Though this appeared a little mysterious to those who favoured the Union, (as the gentlemen who objected declined giving an explanation of their reasons) they were answered; that the Visitation had been thought of merely for the sake of the Union, and not from any predilection

to that expedient, which the proposers neither desired nor dreaded ; but that if, in regard to the end, those gentlemen continued still in the same sentiments, which some of them had so strenuously maintained on former occasions, all the Members of both Colleges might confer amicably together, concerning the most proper means by which the end wished for might be effected, and any reasonable means they should propose, would be impartially considered. In reply to this, the same sentiments, as to the expediency and advantages of an Union, were professed on both sides : but those gentlemen, who had been so much offended at the bare mention of a Royal Visitation, declared, that (however desirable the projected Union might be) they would neither propose any other measure at present, nor have any further conference on the subject.

In this manner, all the members of one of the Colleges, and a few of the other, are laid under the necessity of pursuing together, such measures as to them shall appear most effectual for attaining the proposed end. But though their colleagues positively refuse taking any active part in forwarding this matter, they flatter themselves that, on the other hand, they will be far from taking an active part in opposition to a scheme which they have so often declared, and still declare, to be for the interests of Learning, and the promoting of good Education in this part of the country.

In these circumstances, it has become necessary for those who favour the scheme to proceed with more formality than they had intended, and to publish the following sketch of their Plan of Union ; which is now, with respectful confidence, submitted to the examination of all who take concern in the interests of Literature, and the right Education of Youth in this Country.—To the public at large, the present account is also presented, as a just state of what they wish to accomplish, and the means they had proposed to employ ; with respect to both of which, they are desirous to prevent every misapprehension.

GENERAL HEADS OF A PLAN OF THE PROPOSED UNION.

I. THAT the two Universities be incorporated into one, for the purpose of conducting Education on a more extensive plan.

II. THAT the establishment of Glasgow be kept in view, as a model, very suitable to the situation of Aberdeen, and the surrounding country; admitting, however, such additions and alterations as may be found requisite.

III. As a Principal, with fifteen Professors, may be sufficient for every department of Science and Literature, three of the present offices shall be suppressed, and their salaries applied to the public uses of the University.

IV. THE buildings of both Colleges shall be kept in repair as at present. One half of the classes shall be taught in each. The distribution shall be regulated by convenience, and the interests of good Education. But all public ceremonies shall be performed in the Chapel and Hall of King's College.

V. NONE of the present incumbents shall be deprived of any salary, emolument, or perquisite, which he at this time enjoys; or obliged to undertake any new office or duty, which he does not incline.

VI. THE patronage of offices, and management of funds, shall remain in the hands of those members of each society, who are now invested with them, during their incumbency, or be compensated; and shall be subjected afterwards, to as little innovation, as may consist with the harmony and prosperity of the united University.

VII. THE rights of all other patrons shall be preserved entire and unchanged; or compensated to their satisfaction.

VIII. IMMEDIATE attention shall be paid to the establishment of a medical School; and for this purpose an Anatomical Theatre, and Botanical Garden, shall be provided, as soon as may be.

IX. A sum, not less than 100l. per ann. shall be taken from the salaries of the suppressed offices, and set apart for an accumulating fund, to be improved at compound interest, until its produce shall amount to 200l. per ann. at which time, 100l. per ann. may be taken from it, for public uses, as purchasing books, instruments, &c. the remainder being left to accumulate as before, until it amount again to 200l. per ann. at which time another 100l. per ann. may be taken from it, and so on for ever.

X. THE remainder of the salaries of the three offices suppressed, shall be left to the disposal of the *Senatus Academicus*

amicus, for such useful purposes as they shall think proper; but no part of it shall ever be applied to the augmentation of any salary, if any three Members of the University shall dissent from such application.

The plan inserted above is to be considered, merely as an out-line, to be filled up, corrected, and improved. Such as it is, however, it may be compared with that plan, which was received with universal approbation, in 1754, and which, but for an accident, had been carried into execution at that time; it cannot be doubted but it will be thought to deserve an equal share of public approbation and favour.

It has been endeavoured to improve upon the plan of 1754, and to form that which is now exhibited, on a more comprehensive view of what ought to be the objects and the functions of a flourishing University.

In the plan of 1754, no mention is made of Schools of Medicine, or of Law. These are taken for leading objects in the present plan; for as young men from the North of Scotland cannot be sent to study at Edinburgh or Glasgow, for less than double the expence of their residence here, and as they are thereby much farther removed from the inspection of their parents and relations, it seems due in justice to them that they should find in this their domestic University, the same opportunities of cultivating those sciences, either as a profession, or as parts of a learned education, which the University of Glasgow affords to the Youth of the West.

In the plan of 1754, an augmentation of salaries, arising from the sale of buildings, and the suppression of eight Professorships, seems to have been the favourite object. According to this plan, no buildings are to be sold: only three offices are to be suppressed, and the augmentation of salaries is only mentioned for the sake of subjecting it to proper regulations and restraint. It is intended, that the emoluments of the Professors should arise, chiefly from the fees of their classes, and so, bear proportion to the assiduity they chuse to exert, and the reputation they may acquire. In conformity to this idea, all augmentation of salaries will be confined to those Professors, who are not allowed, by the custom of Universities, to receive fees from their students.

In the plan of 1754, no mention is made of any accumulating

lating fund. It is now proposed, as highly expedient and creditable, or rather, indispensibly incumbent on us. Societies, which have subsisted for two or three centuries, seem bound in duty to extend their care to the advantage of their successors.

From these endeavours to improve the plan of 1754, it may be hoped, that the present plan, after it has been coolly examined, will engage the particular approbation of all those among the Professors, who gave their concurrence, or their active support to the plan of 1754.

If any useful regulations, which entered not into that plan, have also been overlooked in this, it may be their part to suggest them; and their good offices, in this respect, will be very thankfully acknowledged.

Aberdeen, July 20. 1786.

KING'S COLLEGE.

THE Principal and six Professors of the King's College of Aberdeen, having learned that a petition has been for some time handed about, by direction of the members of the Marischal College, to be subscribed by the Noblemen and Gentlemen in this country, for procuring an Union of these two Colleges, find it necessary to give this public notice, that the said petition has been framed and circulated without their knowledge, or any communication with them, they being still ignorant of its tenour; that the first intimation they had of it, was a very few days ago, by the proper and candid inquiry of a nobleman to whom it had been presented; that a single copy of a printed plan of the Union, to which they suppose the petition to refer, has been still more lately transmitted to them, long after it had been communicated to persons much less interested in it, a plan which they conceive to be in many respects *improper, impracticable, and attended with a very imperfect representation of facts relating to their conduct*; that they cannot but consider this as an attempt to surprise persons to whom the petition is presented, into a subscription, on a representation by one party, or perhaps under an idea of its being agreeable to the sentiments of both Colleges:

Colleges: and therefore they beg that Noblemen and Gentlemen will candidly wait information from both sides, before they give their names to a project, which so deeply affects the rights and interest of this University.

MARISCHAL COLLEGE,

July 31, 1786.

THE Principal and *all* the Professors of Marischal College are sorry to be obliged in this public manner, to take notice of an advertisement published in the last Journal, in the name of some Members of King's College, with whom they have ever been desirous to preserve the most perfect harmony.

Those Gentlemen complain that an attempt for obtaining an Union of the two Colleges, has lately been renewed, *without their knowledge or any communication with them.* But can it be reasonably thought either necessary or proper for the friends of the Union, to consult about it with those persons who had absolutely refused to have any further communication with them on that subject, had declared their determined opposition to it, and who have since taken every measure in their power to defeat it? Those gentlemen had however reason to believe, particularly from the ill success of their application to a person of high rank, connected with the Marischal College, that a measure of such acknowledged utility, and so warmly patronized by the public, was not instantly dropt for want of their concurrence. Unanimity would have been very desirable, but as it is scarcely to be expected, that all the private interests and prejudices of individuals, will be voluntarily sacrificed to the public good; those who are friendly to the Union, while they lament the delusion of their brethren, think themselves nevertheless bound by every consideration of duty and character, to pursue the most proper measures for effecting it.

It is said to be *improper* and even *impracticable*. Why then has it been so frequently agitated? Why has it oftener than once within these thirty years been so strenuously supported by the very Gentlemen who now so strenuously oppose it? And why do they take the trouble

to

to oppose it, if they really believe it impracticable? Does any person think it necessary to exert himself for preventing the execution of what he is convinced can never be executed? But to make them perfectly easy on this head, it is proper to inform them that the immediate object of the petition is not to ask an Union, but that his Majesty will be pleased to appoint Visitors, to enquire into the propriety and practicability of such a scheme, and with this view to examine the present state of both Colleges, a measure which surely can do no harm to either, whether an Union be the consequence or not.

It is farther said, that the printed Plan was attended with a very imperfect representation of facts relating to their conduct. A minute detail was not intended. Nothing however was advanced that is not true, but many particulars were suppressed from motives which those present at the meeting in September last, ought rather to respect than censure.

Lastly, in regard to the unhandsome charge of endeavouring to obtain subscriptions by surprise, or perhaps under the idea of its being agreeable to the sentiments of both Colleges; the printed plan, above alluded to, with which the application was always accompanied, perfectly refutes this accusation. Nay, many Letters expressing the highest approbation, which have been received from distinguished Noblemen and Gentlemen in this part of the Kingdom, clearly demonstrate that they had not been surprized into the measure, but perfectly understood all the circumstances of the case.

But there is nothing that the friends of Union more sincerely regret, than the too warm conduct of their opponents. Could they be prevailed on to treat the subject in a dispassionate manner, and impartially to weigh the numerous arguments in favour of the plan; it might still be hoped that they would return to their former sentiments, and would cordially join with a very respectable part of their own Society, with all the Members of Marischal College, and with the public of every rank both in Town and Country, in promoting a measure which they cannot but be sensible, would prove of essential service to the education of Youth, to the prosperity of the University, and to their own reputation.

KING'S COLLEGE,

Tuesday, July 25, 1786.

Principal Chalmers having asserted, that Six Professors of King's College join with him in his advertisement of yesterday, without mentioning their names, I find it necessary for me to declare, that I am not one of that number. I know that neither Professor Ross nor Dr. Dunbar can be included in it. There remain, therefore, just those Six Professors, most of whose proceedings of late, in College Affairs, it has not been in my power to approve.

In nothing have I ever differed from them more widely, than in that opinion they have just delivered, concerning the Plan of Union so lately submitted to the public.

They say, *it is improper*: to me, it appears highly beneficial; in most of its parts unexceptionable, and far, very far to be preferred to that comparatively selfish and illiberal Plan, which the Principal, with four of his six Professors, are known to have supported very strenuously in 1755.

They say, *it is impracticable*: I hold it to be very easily practicable, if only "the parties having concern will lay aside their confined and interested views, and give way to a more general and public good." I quote, with pleasure, the Principal's very pertinent expressions in the beginning of his Memorial, dated Feb. 5, 1755.

These are certainly the only obstructions, which have prevented the proposed Union from taking place. Time hath removed those prejudices, and confined views, which formerly prevailed; but interested views, may, perhaps, still remain.

They add, *that the plan is accompanied with a very imperfect account of their conduct*. Agreed: many particulars of their conduct, relative to the Union both in 1770, and of late, have been omitted; and others seem to be touched with a gentle hand; probably, lest a more perfect account might give, to some of them, more vexation.

The whole of this advertisement is calculated to convey an idea, that the two Colleges are, on this occasion, entirely opposed to each other—This is not so: the Professors

fessors of Marischal College are, indeed, unanimously engaged, under the direction of their Chancellor and Rector, in endeavouring to promote this desired Union. But Principal Chalmers, with the Six Professors, who oppose it, are a Party only. They are not the University of King's College.

WILLIAM OGILVIE.

M E M O R I A L

FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE OF
ABERDEEN, CONCERNING *Outlines of a Plan for
Uniting the King's and Marischal Universities of Aber-
deen.*

THESE *Outlines* having been for some time printed and circulated by the Members of the Marischal College, along with a few, only two, of the other, without any intimation of such a design to the rest, the Principal and professors of the King's College find themselves under a necessity of likewise addressing the Public.

Insinuations being oftener than once made in the *Outlines*, that some of us, having concurred in, and actively promoted former Plans for an Union of the Colleges, are, therefore, in consistency, obliged to forward, or at least not to oppose, the present scheme; it is proper to observe, that, if we should avow our having now seen good reason, particularly from our experience in these former attempts, to change our opinion, this change cannot be deemed in any respect blameable;—That, in perfect consistence with our former conduct, we may totally disapprove, and, to our utmost, *oppose* the present Plan, because it deviates widely from all that were ever before thought of and runs in absolute contradiction to the *principles* on which they proceeded;—That we have the justest reasons for resisting the *methods* by which it has been carried on; That tho' we should admit that some advantages might proceed from a proper Union of these Colleges, yet, so far as they are real, they may be obtained by more eligible means, and that they are neither

so essential, so certain, or so unallayed, as to warrant, in speculation of them, the subversion of Foundations and Charters, which the procuring of them would imply, not to mention the expence and manifold difficulties which must attend the application for an Union, accompanied with great uncertainty of success in the issue.

In 1494 the village of Old Aberdeen was, at the desire of the King, erected, by the Pope's Bull, into an *Universitas studii generalis*, in the common form of Universities, and with all the privileges competent to any of them. In 1498, King James IV. in consequence of that Bull, erected that village into a City and University, with all the privileges of the universities of Paris, St. Andrews, or Glasgow. In 1500, Bishop Elphinston founded, and amply endowed, a College within this University, which being afterwards taken into the King's particular protection, was from that time called *the King's College*: and the foundation was completed in 1505.—A Professor of Divinity was founded within this University, by the Synod of Aberdeen, in 1619, and a Professor of Oriental Languages, by King William, in 1698: who were then Members of the University, but not of the College; but were incorporated into the College, by proper authority, in 1711 and 1716: so that the College now comprehends the whole members of the University, and is therefore called *the University and King's College of Aberdeen*. It now consists of ten Members; and they are vested with the right of Presentation to eight of their Offices, and to about Fifty Bursaries in Philosophy and Arts, and with the Management of the whole Revenue belonging to them: and thus it is a more independent Body, than any other College or University in Scotland.

The Marischal College was founded by Earl Marischal in 1593, and then consisted only of a Principal, with his *famulus*, and three Regents in Arts, to whom was soon added a fourth, in place of the *famulus*; with a revenue only for their support, all to be presented by Earl Marischal, and now, since his forfeiture, by the Crown. Its foundation was in the same year confirmed by act of parliament, granting it all the privileges appertaining to any free College within this realm. Not long after, a Professor of

Divinity, and a Professor of Mathematics, were founded on private donations, under the management and in the presentation of the Town of Aberdeen. About the beginning of this century, Earl Marischal erected and presented a Professor of Medicine, but without any salary, till in 1706 he obtained about 14l. sterl. a share of the Royal Bounty then first given. A Professorship of Oriental Languages, in the gift of Sir Alexander Ramsay, has been since added, by a private donation under his management.

Proposals have often been set on foot for an Union of these two Colleges ; and from the above state of facts, it will appear natural, that the Marischal College should always be disposed to promote them.

That there should be *two independent Universities*, if both be really Universities, *seated within a mile of each other*, did not, most certainly, appear absurd to the FOUNDER OF THE MARISCHAL COLLEGE, to whose intentions some regard may be thought due by the Members of it ; else he would not have founded his College within a mile of an University which had flourished near an hundred years, and which was unquestionably *endowed with the amplest privileges of teaching and conferring degrees in all the sciences*.

That there should be *two Sets of Professors employed, within a mile of each other, in teaching the same Elements of Philosophy and the Greek Language*, can much less appear absurd to any person who has ever heard, that in Cambridge there are *sixteen*, and in Oxford *twenty-five* Colleges and Halls, instituted for the very same course of education within the same town : and *if other branches of science be not taught in either College*, it is owing, in most of them, much more to the want of students, disposed to apply to them, than of Professors able and willing to teach them.

Of the *jealousies* and *illiberal rivalships*, which are said to have taken place between the two Colleges, we have heard very little ; and we know not of any instance of *the regulation of the internal discipline* of either being rendered impracticable for want of the concurrence of the other, nor have we an apprehension that such concurrence, when necessary, can ever be withheld in any proper regulation. But we know certainly, (five of us, tho' only one concerned in the present scheme, having been Members in

in 1754,) that these were not the principal reasons of the attempt then made for an Union ; but the insufficiency of the livings and funds in both Colleges, joined with the idea that both were not indispensibly *necessary*.

For remedying this insufficiency, a Plan of Union was concerted with the unanimous consent of *both Societies*, but not of *other parties concerned* : for it fell to the ground before the consent, or even opinion, with respect to particulars, of any Patron, either of Offices or Bursaries, except the Town of Aberdeen, had been obtained.

In 1770, an union was again projected by some members ; the general design was proposed to both Colleges, and so far encouraged, that they imparted it to their respective chancellors, soliciting their support when a proper Plan should be concerted, and appointed some members of each as a committee for preparing such a Plan ; but agreed that, till it was prepared and adopted by a joint meeting of the two Colleges, the design should, in order to prevent alarms from imperfect or misconceived ideas of it, be kept as secret as possible ; a circumstance which precluded the concurrence of many parties concerned, and our knowledge of the opinion of competent judges without the Societies. The committee held many meetings, and made out several articles of Union to be proposed to a joint meeting of both Colleges : which was called early in winter 1771. In it, some members of the King's College totally disapproved the articles proposed. At the same time, a letter to the Marischal College from their Chancellor was read ; and it appearing to be an answer to one written by them to his Lordship, and that seemingly in the name of both Colleges, fault was found with their having written without the privity of the other College, on a matter in which both were equally interested, and it was demanded that their letter should be communicated ; but this was positively refused ; and their refusal appearing totally inconsistent with the openness and mutual confidence necessary to the successful prosecution of an Union, even those who most approved the design determined to relinquish it at that time.

THE course which has been pursued in bringing forward the present scheme can have no tendency to alter this determination. It is necessary to give a fuller ac-

count of it than the Outlines have given. The authors have since said, that a minute detail was not intended, but certainly it ought to have been a detail calculated to explain equally the conduct of both parties.

It was begun *earlier than last summer*. The preceeding summer an Union had either occurred or been suggested to one Gentleman of the Marischal College, and he had held some conversations on the subject with persons of high rank at London. Some time in the autumn, winter, or early spring thereafter, this was communicated by him to all the members of that College, and to *one* member of the King's. In the beginning of last summer the same gentleman went again to London, and there entered into schemes for effectuating an Union, and into conversations with several persons, both about the means to be employed for that purpose, and for obtaining their influence in its favour. In some of these, if not previously and at home, a royal visitation was proposed for over-ruling such as might disapprove the scheme, and a *visitor* named. In the mean time the design had been communicated to another member of the King's College, who, as we understand, entered warmly into it; and superficially to a third, who did not. On that gentleman's return from London, it was imparted to all the members of the Marischal College, and we have heard, in confidence to some persons unconnected with either College, but not in the remotest manner hinted to any one of us, tho' there had been many natural opportunities. Some time after, a meeting of the Marischal College was called; they were informed of the steps which had been taken; and they unanimously resolved, not to mention the subject to any of us, till the annual meeting of both Colleges in September. But the only member who had been then absent, did, either through ignorance of their resolution, or from his natural openness, give one of us information of the design, and a candid and pretty full account of the several steps which had been taken; but this only *four* days before the annual meeting: and on the discovery of his having done so, the matter was mentioned to a few others of King's College.

At the annual meeting some, not all of us, allowed the expediency of a *proper* Union, but some of us hinted that

that it seemed to them impracticable, and none of us entered into or acknowledged the advantages held forth by the present Plan. On a design of reviving a plan of Union being mentioned, we desired to be informed of the steps which had been already taken, by the gentlemen who had chiefly conducted them; he gave an account of them, but with the *omission* of several which had been before communicated to one of us. When questions were put to him concerning those which he had omitted, to some of them he gave answers readily enough, to others such as we thought evasive; when he hesitated about answering one of them which appeared to be very material for us to know, he was prevented by one of his Colleagues telling him that he was not obliged to answer it: and to some of them we could obtain no answer. It was only after this that all the members of the King's College who were present, declared a *positive resolution, not to enter into any conference* on any plan of Union that might now be proposed. We were told that nothing had been absolutely fixed, and that we might enter on a treaty as if nothing had been done: this we declared impossible, and gave several reasons, of which the *outlines* take no notice, and which we still reckon solid, and cheerfully submit to the public.

Being an University distinct from, and independent of the Marischal College, and equally, nay more deeply, interested in the consequences of an Union, we had a right to be informed of any proposal for that purpose, as early and fully as they, as soon as it was made, and before any step was taken in prosecution of it; and this right had been plainly violated. To agitate it for so many months, to take so many and so important steps, in concert with one, or at most, two, of our Colleagues, but with studied concealment from us, did not bespeak in one party, the openness and candour necessary for producing in the other that confidence, which alone could render conferences subservient to any good purpose. The resolution to conceal every thing from every one of us, till the annual meeting, appeared as soon as we heard of it, very like a design to take us by surprise and unprepared. When even at that meeting we could not obtain a full and fair account

of every thing that had been *already* done, to have agreed to conferences about what *further* should be done, would have been to run headlong into a scheme, which we were not to be permitted fully to understand.

Against one particular step already concerted, an application for a royal visitation, of the first proposer of which they refused to inform us, we did indeed peremptorily declare; but were so far from *declining giving an explanation of our reasons*, that we did then assign *several* reasons, though perhaps not all which might with propriety have been assigned. We told them without any reserve, that our only Colleague with whom they avowed their having all along acted in concert, had been for a considerable time engaged in a determined opposition to most of our measures; that the other with whom they acknowledged some communication, had in some instances favoured, and in none joined us in resisting, his opposition; that these had insinuated threatenings against us of the displeasure of a royal visitation; (circumstances their ignorance of which the members of the Marischal College then professed and regretted, tho' they have continued the concert after they know them) that therefore we suspected the motion for a visitation to have been suggested or eagerly adopted by these, as much for their private party purposes, as for promoting an Union; that they were at perfect liberty fairly to represent their grievances, and solicit a visitation for redressing them, and we had no apprehension for the issue; but we could not consent that, under colour of a totally different and public object, they should have an opportunity of *indirectly* bringing forward their private and groundless complaints; That the Marischal College could not with propriety interest themselves in the internal differences of our society, which required likewise no extraordinary measure for determining them; that we had no objection to their soliciting a visitation for themselves, but knew of no right they had, for any end, to propose a visitation of this University, without not only our concurrence, but even our knowledge. With equal decency indeed they might solicit a visitation of the University of Glasgow; but an application from one University for forcing a visitation on another, is certainly without

out a precedent. We told them that a visitation necessarily occasioned very considerable expence to the College visited, which we did not wish our revenue to incur, and to which they were not intitled to subject it: We declared our opinion, that a visitation could not be, in any point of view, a proper step towards promoting an Union; and we remain clear in the same opinion. All former royal visitations have been appointed, for trying the members of a College according to its foundation and statutes, by which they have been always limited, for enforcing the observance of these, for adding new statutes, where the necessity of them had been previously decided by a majority of that College, or for correcting internal disorders, which could not be corrected by the ordinary visitors, or in the common course of Law; but the object of the visitation now proposed, is wholly new, totally different from all these, and contradictory to most of them; there is no insinuation of any criminality in us, to give a shew of countenance to an application for it; its avowed object is to annul all our present foundations and statutes, and afterwards to model a new constitution of one University from two, as the visitors shall think proper, without any law or known rules to limit them, and if any members or patrons are dissatisfied with their plan, to compel their acquiescence, with a high hand, by pure authority. In this, we have a greater regard to *liberty* than to concur. This unprecedented measure would not, after all, bring the design one whit nearer, for it could not compel patrons and other parties concerned, who are not members of either College subject to a visitation; nor prevent any person interested from opposing the design, when brought into parliament.—Which party held the most *mysterious* conduct, and whether we were not fully justified in refusing to concur in carrying forward a scheme, which had been begun and carried so far in such a manner, the public will judge.

When it was known that *seven* members of the King's College were decidedly against prosecuting the present plan of union, under the above circumstances, and only *two* declared for it, it might have been expected that it would have been dropped: For it was the explicit determination

mination of the one party, the King's College, not to enter into a treaty with the Marischal College, the other party. But as former proceedings led us to suspect, that this would not be the case, some days after the annual meeting, two of us, in name of the whole, waited on the gentleman of the Marischal College, who had brought forward the scheme, conversed coolly and deliberately about it, were informed by him that no steps had been taken since the annual meeting, nor any letter to their chancellor on that subject written or agreed to; and on their proposing, that, if such a letter was resolved on, it should be communicated to us, he said that this appeared reasonable to him, but he could not answer for the society. Next day one of us waited on the Principal, and made the same proposal to him, but he refused to communicate to us any letter which they might resolve on writing. On this refusal he was told, that we found ourselves at liberty to take what steps we judged proper for our own defence. The first of them (and that from our high respect to his Lordship, that if he was pleased to give us a fair hearing, we might have no need, in a body, to take any other step) was to write a letter to their chancellor, expressing our sentiments concerning a matter in which we were so materially interested, and the reasons of them; to this his Lordship vouchsafed no answer; and they now tell the world, that they have been informed of the whole, and boast of our ill success, and one of these gentlemen affirms, that they are acting under his Lordship's direction.

All their doings have been anxiously concealed from us; without our knowledge they concerted and published their *outlines*; and several days after they had been sending them to different parts of the country, a single copy for the use of us all, dated July 17th, came to the Principal's hand on the 19th. At the same time they had done what that publication gives no hint of; they had sent about a petition, (of which we have at last found means to obtain a copy,) from the members of the Marischal College, with Mr. Ogilvie and Doctor Dunbar of King's College, to his Majesty, praying that he will appoint a *visitation of both these Universities, for the purpose of examining into the advantages to be expected from their being united,*
and

and for adjusting a plan according to which the union may be accomplished; and along with it a paper of approbation, which we have not yet seen, to which they solicited subscriptions, as if they intended to overpower us with the authority of great names, without allowing us a hearing, or them any information concerning our reasons for opposing the proposed plan. Of this we got notice only by the candour of a Nobleman, to whom that paper was presented, but who very properly declined subscribing it, till he should learn the sentiments of the members of the King's as well as of the Marischal College; and on July 16th wrote to the Principal for that purpose.—The advertisement by which we asked only, that Noblemen and Gentlemen would candidly wait information from both sides, before they give their names to a project which so deeply affects the rights and interest of this university: and the advertisement by which the members of Marischal College warmly oppose this reasonable request, but without denying one fact alledged in support of it, are both before the public, who will judge on which side most warmth or most candour appears. Our refusal to co-operate with them, they represent as a sufficient reason for their making no communication of their designs to us, and yet, not very consistently with this, they at length call on us for our good offices in suggesting improvements on their Plan: But we think that no reason can justify, either the proceedings which occasioned that refusal, or their afterwards persisting in any scheme so deeply affecting our rights and interests, which they thought they could not communicate to us. At present the King's and the Marischal Colleges are separate and independent societies, and any treaty between them as such, ought to be alike voluntary on both sides, and to be proposed on some terms of equality. The former have a large revenue, under their own management, and an extensive and valuable Patronage, not only of Bursaries, but of Offices: When the latter solicit an Union, they should have something to offer for a participation in all this; but they have nothing, for their revenue is little above one half, and they enjoy no Patronage, except of a few small Bursaries. Yet, without so much as the knowledge of the other society, they have formed and prosecuted a design of claiming that participation, and of forcing

forcing it by the authority of a Visitation ; and, after the known refusal of that other society, they have laboured, in the like concealed manner, on their own partial information, to prejudice the public in their favour, and to procure powerful assistance in that strong and extraordinary measure for accomplishing their purpose. This is just as if one person should (because he thinks some advantage would accrue to the public) insist with his richer neighbour, that their estates should be thrown into one, and equally divided between them ; and should call his refusal a sufficient reason for secretly engaging the influence of great men, in order to obtain an extraordinary Commission from the Crown, for carrying it forcibly into execution.

THE reasons assigned in favour of the scheme which has been pursued in so extraordinary a manner, fall next to be considered.

We have the utmost respect for persons of high rank, and particularly for those who have been consulted in this matter : but, in perfect consistence with that respect, we may observe, that their very elevation, their distant residence, and other circumstances, may prevent their having perfect knowledge of the state of that part of the country with which these Colleges are connected, and of the course of education which it requires or can admit. The private gentry, the clergy, and the richer farmers in the northern parts and the highlands of Scotland, who have themselves been educated in one or other of these seminaries, who send their children to them, and from whom nearly all the students of both must always come, are not incompetent judges, and have on all occasions, very generally disapproved of an Union, as to them *disadvantageous*, and declared that the separation of the Colleges gave a desirable choice, between one situated in a pleasant retired village, where they are under the constant eye of their masters, and another in the middle of a large trading town ; and that their vicinity promoted emulation and diligence in the masters, and proved a check on raising the expence of education so high as elsewhere, and above what the circumstances of the country can bear.

If it be true, that in universities *where the classes are most numerous, young men pursue their studies with great ardor*
and

and diligence, it cannot be ascribed solely or chiefly to their number: on the contrary, if this could increase a spirit of application in the few who least need a spur, it has a plain tendency to promote dissipation, irregularity and idleness in the generality; and it makes it impossible for the master to bestow the same pains and attention on each, which he could do in a smaller class, and which is peculiarly necessary where boys come so young to College, that without careful and frequent *examinations*, the best lectures would be totally useless. But in thinner classes than ever are in either College, a skilful teacher can never want any proper means of exciting emulation; and the places which have been obtained, many of them by competition, by young men educated here, the stations which they have been found fit to occupy, and the figure which they have made in them, demonstrate how well they had been educated.

Before a step of such magnitude as the proposed Union be taken for the sake of schools of law and medicine, there would need to be a *certainty* of its answering the purpose; but we are convinced that there is scarcely a *chance* for it.

For a school of law there is no necessity for an Union: in the King's College there always has been a Professorship of laws; but for a century past, none in that office have found the smallest encouragement for opening a class. An attempt at it was made near forty years ago at Aberdeen, by a person unquestionably well qualified, but without a shadow of success. In Glasgow, the establishment of any law class is owing only to the great exertions of the present Professor and his immediate predecessor; it must cease if ever these shall be slackened, and the office become, as formerly, a sinecure: but still there is there but *one* Professor of laws.

For giving success to a medical College, it is not enough to erect Professorships; and that other circumstances, no less indispensable, cannot be hoped for at Aberdeen, both experience and reason lead us to believe. Our present Professor of medicine, at his entry, advertised for a class, but found no students. Very lately an attempt to introduce the study of Botany was encouraged by both Colleges, but had scarcely a face of success throughout one season. Several years ago Doctor Gregory, in conjunction with another Physician of first rate abilities, opened

opened Classes in Aberdeen for the several branches of medicine, and persisted in giving lectures for two sessions, but were attended by scarce any students of medicine. The high reputation with which Dr. Gregory afterwards taught at Edinburgh is a demonstration that his failure here was owing to local circumstances, which must be expected always to produce the same effect; and they are pretty obvious.

At Edinburgh, and even at Glasgow, the largeness, riches and populousness, both of the towns and of the immediately circumjacent counties, draw together a great number of the most eminent Physicians. At Aberdeen there cannot be so great a number, nor consequently so ample a choice for four or five medical Professors. The ablest Physicians there may be expected to have the most extensive and lucrative practice; and a great part of it is known to be in very distant parts of the country. This is absolutely incompatible with regular attendance on any class, and the large emoluments of his private practice, no man will sacrifice for a class, the fees of which do not compensate them. Such classes there are at Edinburgh, but such cannot be reasonably looked for at Aberdeen; and without them the Professors would either teach with the assistance of such deputies as they could find, or give up teaching altogether, and the multiplication of medical Professors would prove only the multiplication of *sinécures*.

That it will be otherwise, the *outlines* express only *hopes*, but bring no *proof*; though, before the present constitutions of two Universities be subverted in the contemplation of it, some proof, or at least some experiment is necessary. Let an experiment be made. It is asserted, that *in the present disjoined state of the two Colleges, it would answer no good purpose to open schools of medicine in either*: but the assertion is not supported by a single argument. It would answer the best purpose. There are already two Professors of medicine in these Colleges; at Glasgow there were no more, and were the Union to take place, they must be the only ones for a considerable time; let these open classes in conjunction, as the two Professors of Divinity have always done: let them have all the assistance from others which shall be found necessary, as was the

the case at Glasgow; and in procuring it, the King's College will not be backward: let them go on as long as is requisite for a fair trial. If it succeed not, this will be a demonstration, that the promised advantages of a Medical College are all chimerical. If it succeed, it will then be time enough to think of perpetuating or enlarging it, whether by an Union, or by some other means by which many additional Professorships have been formerly erected in both these, and in other Colleges. The medical College even at Edinburgh was begun by *one* Professor, in conjunction with purely voluntary colleagues; and it was only after their experiment had signally succeeded, that it was erected into its present form.

If their hopes of success continue so sanguine as to deem no experiment necessary, let them leave the King's College in possession of the offices and privileges which it now has, and at liberty to apply its revenue for ever to the purposes to which its founder and other donors have expressly appropriated it; and let them take what means they think proper for converting the Marischal College, (which they have discovered to be, in its present form, unnecessary) with the revenue belonging to it, into additional professorships, constituting another College, either by itself, or in the University like the new and united Colleges of St. Andrews. This will produce the very same advantages as their desired union. It shall meet with no opposition from us; and it will certainly be easier to procure an alteration of the form of one College, than to overturn the constitution of both.

A Botanical Garden is connected with a Medical College, and without this could answer no purpose of academical education, where there are no summer students. The libraries of both Colleges, alike open to all, are already valuable, and receiving continual accessions both from funds belonging to them, and by donations. The King's College has a museum handsomely furnished, fully sufficient for the students, equal perhaps to any in the kingdom, and always encreasing. The Marischal College has an observatory; by the like means as it was erected, it may be improved; and an observatory is subservient, not so much to the academical course, as to general observations or discoveries.

By these considerations we are convinced that the proposed plan of union is neither necessary, nor would be productive of the advantages so liberally ascribed to it.

BUT it is a plan to which we could not think ourselves at liberty to accede for the sake of any advantages. For it runs in absolute contradiction to our foundation and statutes, which we hold sacred, and are bound by our oaths to maintain.

By the foundation of King's College, and by the posterior donations, its whole revenue is expressly appropriated to the maintenance of the members and bursars therein *specified*, and the buildings; and to these purposes only it has constantly been religiously applied. In the plan of 1754 the very same application was secured. In that of 1770 these purposes were provided for in the first place, and others put in view only after these should be sufficiently answered. But the present plan pays no regard at all to the intention of founder or donors, but in contempt of it, perverts a great part of the revenue from the purposes fixed by them, to totally different purposes; as if solemn deeds were of no force, but could be changed at any time, according to the present and mutable ideas of one set of trustees.—Some of the general heads of that plan require more particular notice.

As they have given no designation of their fifteen Professors (by the last plan there were only to be eleven) they have not put it in the power either of the public or of us, to form a judgment, whether they are all either necessary or useful; for the reasons already given, we are convinced that some of them are *neither*.

We are left in the same darkness, with respect to the *distribution of the classes*; but we may perhaps nearly conjecture it from what was proposed in 1770. It was, that the classes for Medicine, Anatomy, Mathematics, Greek, Natural History and Natural Philosophy should be *unalterably* fixed within the Marischal College. The Principal, with the Professors of Divinity, Law, Moral Philosophy and Humanity, were appointed in King's College; but not *fixed*; for the two latter were allowed to open their courses in the other College; and as the scholars of the last are the very same who attend the Greek and Philosophy classes, and the scholars of both are subject to the same public

public discipline with these, they could not without absurdity be kept at a mile's distance from them. It is remarkable that, by this scheme, of all the members founded by Bishop Elphinston, only the Principal, who teaches no class, and the Professor of Laws, who has never been able to find a class, are left in his College; and all the rest, as well as the revenue, made a mere accession to the Marischal. The members of King's College who listened to this proposal in 1770, are surprised that they did not then perceive, that this was truly to annihilate that College, to leave it but in name, and for the sake of that name, to support expensive buildings, which too would be in a great measure useless. They are likewise clear, that to separate into two bodies at a mile's distance, the members, not only of one University, the proper business of which would not require frequent meetings; but of one College, who ought to meet all together about *every particular* both of discipline and management, would be unexampled, highly inconvenient, and necessarily productive of faction; all which, joined to the useless expence of buildings, would not long leave this college so much as in name.

By the plan of 1770, the present incumbents were to enjoy during their life, not only what they then had, but *all improvements and augmentations to which they would have been entitled, if no union had taken place*: By the present, they are to have what they *at this time enjoy*, and are thus cut off from all improvements of the funds belonging to them. Besides, most of us have manfres and other accommodations annexed to our offices, and others are furnished by the College with good houses at a cheap rent; leases of all which would not bring one half of the rent of houses for us in Aberdeen. The great loss of property which we must thus sustain, our opponents cannot justly subject us to at their pleasure, without our consent, and our consent they cannot reasonably expect.

It is only the King's College, (*not some members of each society*) that has at present the patronage of offices, and the management of its whole revenue; by allowing these privileges to remain with the present incumbents the Marischal College offers nothing; yet supposes that they may be deprived of them on a compensation; but what som-

penfation they have it in their power to propofe, we know not.

Other Patrons will not, perhaps, think their rights preferved *entire*, by a Vice-patronage of the offices in their gift: And no compenfation can be made to them, but at the fole expence of privileges now peculiar to the King's College.

To the eftablifhment of a Medical School *immediate* attention cannot be paid, nor an Anatomical Theatre and Botanical Garden *foon* provided, not till vacancies fhall happen; becaufe all the revenues of both Collèges are already appropriated to abfolutely neceffary purpofes, for which they are not more than fufficient.

Without encroaching on thefe purpofes, the ftate of the revenue could not permit thofe objects to be attained, and 100l. per ann. fet apart for an accumulating fund, even after the Union were completed. According to all the ideas fuggelted on former occafions, or that can indeed be properly fuggelted, the prefent falaries of the feveral offices in King's College, and of the Profefforfhip of Mathematics in Marifchal College, muft continue to be the falaries annexed to the fame offices in the United College. Out of the other falaries of the Marifchal College, the additional Profefforfhips muft be endowed; and after affigning them falaries proportioned to the others, and fetting apart 100l. per ann. there would remain from the falaries of *three* fuppreffed offices, for all the great defigns held forth, and for the future arbitrary difpofal of the *Senatus Academicus*, nearly *nothing*. But if it had been otherwife, to neglect any prefent ufeul purpofe, for the fake of accumulating a large fund, to be applied by remote fucceffors, to we know not what ufes, according to their judgment, perhaps their caprice, appears nowife proper, was no part of the intention of our Founder, but is rather contradictory to his exprefs injunftion.

To the *advantage of their fucceffors*, the Members of King's College have, for more than thirty years paff, *extended their care*, in a far more proper and effectual manner; by improving the revenue nearly one half, and putting it into a continually improvable ftate, the benefit of which their fucceffors will reap, and are juftly entitled to. But this their juft claim, the *outlines* would preclude for

for ever. They indeed hold out a future augmentation to such Professors as receive no fees; but they only mock them with the prospect, for it may be for ever disappointed by the humour of any *three* out of sixteen, and these too interested in opposing it; and thus these Professors, among whom the Principal must be numbered, may be hereafter reduced to as great penury and distress, as the present members would be in, if confined to the precise sums of money allotted them by the foundations, while at the same time the funds destined for them could afford them an easy living, but were perverted to other uses, for none of which they were ever destined. All the other Professors are expressly excluded for ever from any augmentation, whatever may be the value of the funds now belonging to their offices, or the expence of living, and are made dependent on their fees. The natural consequence would be, the raising of these fees, to the distress of the students; and even this may sometime prove insufficient for their decent support. Salaries so high as to be alone sufficient for this, might produce negligence in teaching, but of this there is no risk from such augmentations as any Union could permit: but if the salaries be not such as, together with the customary fees, to make a decent living, the effects will be as pernicious; well qualified persons will not accept the offices; or they will resign them on the first opportunity, as several of the ablest Professors in these Colleges have within a short time done; or they will continue to teach with little spirit, under the pressure of poverty and meanness. Our successors have the same right to all future improvements of the revenue destined for them by their Founders, as we have to our present salaries: and for us to surrender these, from them to other uses, would be, were it in our power, not *disinterestedness* or *liberality*, but *injustice*.

WHEN all these things are considered, it will appear, how far the favourers of the Plan have given those to whom they have applied, a *perfect understanding* of all the *circumstances of the case*, and how far the opposers of it have *weighed their arguments*, or are actuated by mere *passion* and *prejudice*. To call it *improper*, seems to us too little; we think it injurious both to us and our successors, without any prospect of real public utility. Not only from

the interference of rights, which cannot be easily adjusted, but from its illegality as being contradictory to our Foundation, and from the insufficiency of the Revenue for the purposes designed, we are convinced that it is *impracticable*: Its being in such respects impracticable, appears to us the best possible reason for our not only refusing to concur in it, but opposing it with all our vigour.

We are sorry, that the necessary explication of our sentiments has run into so great a length. To hold forth specious general ideas of advantages, admits greater brevity than is possible in examining the solidity or exposing the fallacies of such views. We submit them to the Public, with readiness to explain them farther, to any who shall candidly desire it, but with a firm determination to enter into no altercations on the subject; and we desire its countenance and support, no farther than, on fairly attending to both sides, our cause shall be found to deserve it.

King's College, August 21, 1786.

O B S E R V A T I O N S

On a Memorial from the University and King's College of Aberdeen, concerning Outlines of a Plan for Uniting the King's and Marischal Universities of Aberdeen: By the Professors of both Colleges engaged in endeavouring to promote an Union.

IT is scarcely worth while to enquire with what propriety a memorial can be said to come from an University, consisting of a Rector and fourteen other members, when that Memorial has not received the sanction of the Rector's approbation, and has never been produced in any meeting regularly called, or where more than six of the members were present. We hold it to be the Memorial of the Principal with his six Professors, calling themselves both *The King's College of Aberdeen*, and *the University of Aberdeen*.

We can have no pleasure in dwelling (whatever advantage our argument might derive from it) on that apology

for

for the want of consistency, which our opponents find necessary to premise to all their disquisitions.

They oppose the present plan of Union; because *it runs in absolute contradiction to the principles on which former plans proceeded*: The principle of the first plan, was the augmentation of salaries, by suppressing offices, and the sale of buildings. The principle of the second plan, was the augmentation of salaries, joined with the improvement of education: the principle of this last plan, is the improvement of education alone, excluding all augmentation of salaries, derived from the suppression of offices, or sale of buildings.

These are the differences of principle; and on account of these differences of principle, it seems, nay they avow it, the Principal of King's College with his adherents, strenuously supported the first; acted for a while ambiguously with regard to the second, which at length they abandoned; and have now determined, *with all their vigour*, to oppose the last.

Frequent reference is made by the writer of the Memorial to this ancient and much approved principle, the augmentation of salaries; and hints, not obscurely couched, are thrown out, that could it any how be recalled, unanimity, its former companion, might return.

A pretty distinct, but long account, of the foundations and progressive increase of both Colleges follows next, introduced merely for the purpose of remarking, that *from the above state of facts it will appear natural, that the Marischal College should always be disposed to promote an Union*. The circumstances on which this inference may be founded, are far from being obvious; they must be clear-sighted gentlemen who perceive them, and therefore we may ask them to explain, why in 1754, when the augmentation of salaries was the object, the Masters of King's College appeared remarkably more eager than those of Marischal College seemed to be, until a certain supposed discovery took place.

There can be no absurdity, these gentlemen think, in two sets of Professors being employed within a mile of each other, in teaching the same elements of Philosophy and the Greek Language to very thin classes, since in Cambridge there are sixteen Colleges, and in Oxford twenty-five. But are they so little acquainted with the state of the

the English Universities, as to suppose, that in Cambridge there are sixteen sets of Professors, and in Oxford twenty-five? Let them be informed, that in each of these extensive universities there are only single Professors of Greek, of Mathematics, of Natural and Moral Philosophy, of Astronomy, of Chemistry, of Botany, of Anatomy, and not more than two of any other branch of science or Literature whatever.

We pass over their erroneous account of the proposed Union in 1770, and the long querulous narrative of what has hitherto taken place on the present occasion, reserving the various misrepresentations with which it abounds, for future examination, if this controversy must be continued: But we ask our opponents, what inference they would draw from all the facts, were it granted, that they had passed exactly as related by them? What apology for refusing even to confer, concerning the practicability of a scheme, which they knew was demanded by a respectable part of the public, which some of themselves had repeatedly approved, and which even yet none of them has ventured absolutely to reject? What is there in the mere proposal of a visitation, that ought to irritate or alarm Professors conscious of having done their duty with their best abilities? conscious of fidelity to the trusts lodged in their hands?

Of what importance could it be to the proposed Union, that they should know by whom a visitation had been first mentioned? What if one of their own colleagues had indeed proposed it? And what harm could ensue, had he intended in this manner to bring forward his own complaints, if, as they assert, these complaints are groundless?

These seven Gentlemen remonstrate, that their rights as an University have been violated, because they were not informed, before the public meeting in September, of every step that had been taken. What right had they to be informed of private conversation, and confidential intercourse; of what passed between the members of either society and the noblemen to whom they had access? Is it not said in their memorial, that they themselves agreed to keep the plan of 1770 as secret as possible, from many of the parties concerned, in order to prevent alarms from misconceived ideas of it? Let them mention any step tak-

en, of which they had a right to be informed. Was any deed of any kind executed? Was application made to any person in public office? Was there even a single minute entered in the records of the Marischal College?

They assert, that the issue of the public meeting in September, was *an explicit determination of the one party, King's College, not to enter into any treaty with the Marischal College, the other party.* The parties are inaccurately stated: it was an explicit declaration of the adversaries of Union in King's College, one party, not to enter into any treaty with the friends of Union in both Colleges, the other party, and in consequence of this, a determination of the latter, to make application to the public, (of whom both are the servants and trustees) for their interposition in their own cause.

All our actions, they complain, have been concealed from them, and it is true that, after their determination above-mentioned, we thought it became us, not to court any farther intercourse with them for some time; and when, on occasion of addressing the public at large, we thought it decent to pay them some more particular attention, and to request their good offices and assistance, they have returned our civility with an ill-founded remark.

But to what purpose recount all their proceedings? We seek in vain to recal them to proper sentiments: the public, we are assured, requires no explanation from us.

It may avail more, to bestow some remarks on those inconsistent and vague ideas, which they seem to entertain, of the powers of Royal Visitors. In one passage of their memorial, they represent these powers as confined to very narrow limits, and altogether inadequate to the purpose of effecting an Union. But let them consult the records of that visitation of St. Andrews in 1579, when Buchanan acted as one of the Commissioners; there they will find, that powers were vested in them 'to redress the form of study and teaching be ma or fewer Professors, to join or divide the Faculties, to annex every Faculty to sic College as fall be found to be maist proper, and generally to establish sic order in that University, as fall maist tend to the glory of God, profit of the communwealthe, and gude upbringing of the youth in sciences needful, &c.

'&c. The auld Foundations and Erections of the saids Colleges and haill University, or any thing contained therein, notwithstanding.'

Let them recollect what powers have been exercised by Royal Visitors in these Universities. By what *proper authority* were the Professors of Divinity and Oriental Languages superadded to their own College? Was it not the authority of Visitors? By what authority have the Professors of Canon Law and of Music been suppressed? Was it not by Visitors? Or have they done this by their own authority; and shall not Visitors have power to make more important changes? They suppose, that Visitors have power only to establish such statutes as have been previously agreed to by majorities. But they may be assured, that Visitors need pay no regard to majorities, and are not accustomed to do so: that one of the most frequent objects of visitations is to over-rule, and break the force of majorities established by cabal: and the last visitation held in Scotland, in the year 1727, was particularly intended for that very purpose. Were such visitations more frequent, they would prevent certain mistakes into which Gentlemen are apt to fall, by which they are led to speak of the endowments of a College, as of their family-estate, (page 6th) and of the patronage annexed to offices, as of property, to be used *like money in their purse*.

On other occasions, our opponents express a certain dread, of what they call the *despotic and arbitrary powers* of visitors, together with an instant apprehension of suffering injustice from their interference in the present case; for they accuse us of endeavouring to *force an Union by the authority of visitors*.

We, for our part, entertain no apprehensions of any who may be invested with the Royal commission. We mean not to call down on others, and we do not fear to meet with ought that may be accounted the smallest grievance, or unkind usage. Yet will we freely acknowledge, that this application for a visitation has not been a matter of choice. We wished to attain the end in view, by some less troublesome means; but since our opponents have refused all treaty, and even lately have rejected (with less respect to these gentlemen than became them) a proposal

of referring the whole scheme to the two Rectors; we have felt ourselves urged by considerations of duty, not to omit the last expedient in our power, for accomplishing so desirable an end. In this proceeding we have the satisfaction to know, that our conduct meets with approbation from the intelligent public.

In the second part of their Memorial, our opponents are pleased to undervalue all those advantages which we were led to expect, from the proposed Union. Of the Medical School in particular, they affirm that it has not even a *chance* for success. To this very dogmatic prediction, we oppose the confident hopes, and earnest wishes of all who are acquainted with this city, and more especially of those who are most nearly interested, and best qualified to judge.

Dr. Gregory and Dr. D. Skene thought that it had a good chance of succeeding about thirty years ago. If that private attempt, by men of their abilities, failed, it serves only to show, in a strong light, that the systematic and permanent establishment of classes, in an united University, is requisite to ensure success for this or any similar scheme of improvement.

Doubtless it would be in vain to open such classes in either of the Colleges, in their disjoined state, while the students of each are accustomed to consider themselves as a separate stock; while the point of honour keeps them from leaving that College in which they happen to be entered; and from attending any classes, that are opened in the other; this would be accounted academical desertion, and very rarely is it known to take place.

Our opponents affirm in like manner, that a school of Law can never succeed: But if a single Professor has been able to establish a flourishing school at Glasgow, may not two command at least equal success in this city, more remote from Edinburgh, surrounded by a country, in which so great a number of young men are educated to that profession; and so many gentlemen of moderate fortunes, wish to give the most complete education to their sons, at the smallest expence?

One real objection to the proposed Union our adversaries have indeed brought forward, and have industriously placed it again and again in a strong light. We mean the danger

danger that *fees* in the United University may be raised too high.

When the Outlines of our plan were prepared for the public, this objection was not overlooked ; and the means of removing it, very readily occurred : but fully conscious of the best intentions, and well assured of a candid interpretation, we thought it unnecessary, to load that short sketch, with any account of the only objection, which the industry of our sagacious opponents has been able to discover. We now beg leave to observe, that to prevent such abuses, will naturally become one object of the attention of visitors ; and this surely falls within their power ; nor are we unprepared with a simple proposal to be laid before them.

All other fees are regulated by those which the bursars are obliged to pay : And the fees of Bursars may be regulated for all future time, by that proportion which they now bear to the average price of grain, as ascertained by the Fairs. If this seems not sufficient, we shall thank any gentleman for the candid suggestion of a better rule.

It is insinuated, that those persons of high rank, who approve the intended Union, may not be the most competent judges of academical concerns. *The private Gentry, the Clergy, the richer Farmers,* (to all of whom we conceive the proposal is not unacceptable) are, perhaps, more competent judges of the details of Education, the assiduity of Professors, and the treatment which students receive ; but in a question relative to the constitution of Universities, and the Plan on which they ought to be modelled anew, persons of elevated rank, and various knowledge, who fill public stations, and are acquainted with Universities in other countries as well as this, may be presumed to be better qualified to determine what opportunities of pursuing useful studies, should be provided for the youth of an extensive country. In Scotland, the Senators of the College of Justice will be accounted most unexceptionable judges of such questions : and it happens, that some Members of that honourable Court, whose learning and public spirit are well known, who have received their education at these Universities, and are well acquainted with the state of the country, and of the two Colleges, particularly King's College, (having acted as Council and Arbitrators

Arbitrators in the disputes of that society) have given their explicit approbation of the proposed Union. We conceive, that the opinion of such men will be accounted a very strong testimony in its favour, and may tend to remove any doubts from the minds of those, who know themselves to be less informed of the circumstances, and less qualified to decide on the question.

In no part of this long Memorial have our opponents renounced their former opinions concerning the general expediency of uniting the Colleges: We observe it with pleasure, for their sakes as well as our own, flattering ourselves that they continue still as heretofore persuaded,

‘That an Union of the two Colleges, if it can be accomplished upon a reasonable plan, might be of great consequence to education, in this part of the kingdom.’

‘That it is the most effectual method to remedy the inconveniencies which attend the present state of these Colleges, and to provide for a more complete plan of education.’

And that they think ‘small accidental inconveniencies too trifling, to be once mentioned in a matter of such public importance.’

Believing that these continue still their fixed opinions, and that all the objections stated in their memorial arise from some mistaken apprehension of the plan we have proposed, we think it not improper, to bestow some pains in removing those mistakes, if they are disposed to listen to what may be candidly represented.

It was by no means intended, to overturn, or pervert, so solemn a deed as the foundation of King’s College: although we think, that while the intentions of the liberal-minded founder are observed, great changes, and improvements, may be made as in former times, by *proper authority*. But that Union whose object is the improvement of education, may easily be accomplished, with far less appearance of change, or violation, than must have attended the Union of 1754, whose sole object was the augmentation of salaries, and with less incroachment on the real intentions of the founder than it is supposed may have taken place on various occasions, for different ends.

If, in consequence of a proper distribution of Offices in the united University, by competent authority, one

two of the present Professorships should become unnecessary, would it be any violation of that foundation, to assign their revenues to a common stock for public uses, in which the Members on the foundation of King's College should always have a proportional interest? Would not this interest compensate them for the Patronage of the suppressed offices? Or should they, according to the idea the Memorial gives of their pertinacity, in such transactions, insist for some farther compensation, would it be altogether impossible to gratify them? Are there not precedents in that College of offices thus sunk, and their salaries applied to no public fund or use, but to the sole augmentation of the subsisting salaries?

It was by no means intended, that any person should be deprived of any improvement of his salary, or other advantage he might reasonably claim or expect, any more than of what he actually possesses. Why should our opponents still forget, that these outlines were presented merely as such, to be filled up, corrected, and improved?

It was by no means intended, that any member should be deprived of his House, or Manse, or obliged to quit his present residence, to undertake any new charge elsewhere; but that, whatever may be required of his successor, the present incumbent shall be at liberty to reside and teach where he pleases.

There will be no occasion for Vice-Patronages, if the number of offices is kept up to sixteen; and the only Patron to whom this insinuation is addressed by our opponents, has declared so warmly in favour of an Union, and perceives so clearly the necessity of a Visitation for effecting it, that from him we may expect much assistance in our endeavours; so far are we from dreading any obstruction, in consequence of their suggestions.

It was by no means intended to preclude the augmentation of any salary, by the progressive improvement of those funds from which it now arises. We intended only to preclude the augmentation of salaries, arising from the suppression of offices, or sale of buildings. The first appears to us a gross misapplication, and the second nearly allied to sacrilege. We regard with veneration, those edifices, which our Founders have seen with their own eyes, while rising from the ground, to which they have affixed their
armorial

armorial bearings, and which they have destined to be the perpetual monuments of their munificence.

It is not easy for us to believe that our opponents could mistake our meaning in respect of augmentations ; it is more probable that they chose to mistake it, that they might reiterate and insist on the danger of increasing fees ; and herein their controversial skill appears to great advantage.

By insisting on this topic, they give occasion to remark a wide difference of opinion between us, as to the motives by which Professors, may be excited to exert their abilities. We hold, that the opportunity of assembling numerous classes of students, is the proper incentive, and for this, among other reasons, we desire to see an Union effected. They profess, dwelling on the subject, that ample salaries are indispensibly requisite, and that little rivalships may prove an useful stimulus. What difference of sentiment may have led us respectively to these different conclusions, it is not worth while to enquire ; which of them the liberal minded public will rather approve, admits not, as we conceive, of any doubt. If, neither the honourable sense of duty, nor love of the science which he cultivates, nor the pleasure of imparting that science to attentive youth, may rouse a Professor to the best exertion of his abilities, it is not likely, that his exertions can be of much value to the public ; it is too probable, that his emulation of others may degenerate into *illiberal jealousy*, and lead to unworthy arts. How much, or how little, our opponents may have heard of these, we know not : Others certainly have heard, more than they can recollect with pleasure.

We know that in the thinnest classes, emulation may be employed to excite the application of students. But it seems to us a great advantage attending numerous classes of young men, that the ingenious and dilligent forming a *more* considerable body, their example diffuses a more powerful influence, emulation becomes less requisite, and whatever arises, must be the emulation of numbers, not the rivalship of individuals, or a few.

And however well young men may be taught at these seminaries, in thin classes, not exceeding thirty or twenty-five, our opponents will not presume to say that they are not equally well taught at Edinburgh and Glasgow

in corresponding classes, containing three or four times that number.

They complain, that we have not specified the fifteen intended Professors, nor fixed any distribution of the Classes. Out of deference to the Public, and even to them, we have forbore. In this and other such particulars we looked for their good offices, and contented ourselves with just naming that number which appeared to us sufficient. To them this number seems too large; for they chuse to remind us (as claiming a preference) that eleven was the number they had agreed to, on a former occasion. We, on the other hand, are more inclined to enlarge it to sixteen, and would embrace with pleasure the suggestion lately received, of a Professor of Agriculture, or Rural Oeconomy. Such a chair has been established in some foreign Universities, particularly in Gottingen, and is just now very warmly recommended to those of England by an eminent Prelate, himself formerly a distinguished Professor in more than one science.

As to the distribution of classes, it seemed enough to suggest the general rule of convenience, and the interests of education. We had entered into no detail, nor did we recollect the distribution of classes in 1770, until lately we found it in a Memorial relative to that Union, drawn up by one of the gentlemen now in opposition, with his usual clearness, and such solidity of sense, that the reasons for uniting the Colleges as there exhibited, appear to us sufficient to convert most of his present associates, if they, at our request, will be pleased to peruse them. The scheme of distribution contained in that Memorial is different from what our opponents have chosen to produce, and in no degree liable to those frivolous objections which they have endeavoured to fasten on it *.

Our opponents have remarked, that an Anatomical Theatre and a Botanical Garden cannot be immediately established: and it is true, that some time will be necessary, before the University funds can afford the expence of either. But if our views and endeavours shall appear to deserve any public aid, we entertain no visionary

* See Reasons and Proposals by Mr. Gordon, No. 3. of this Collection.

hopes of obtaining in the mean time what may be requisite.

The Principal and his associates (perhaps not all of them) are disposed to treat with sarcasm, the idea of an accumulating fund. We adhere however to that plan with increasing attachment, well assured of public approbation.

And what reason have our adversaries to suppose, that our successors will at any time be less judicious in their management, more liable to caprice, or more tainted with an illiberal aversion to the interests of literature, than the present set of incumbents, in both societies, collectively taken? Or have they any reason to think that their own places may be hereafter filled by men less inclined to the disinterested and liberal expenditure of public money, than themselves? Or are they conscious, that had such a fund been established a century ago, they would have been tempted by its ample produce to speculation and abuse? Such foresight, or such consciousness, are the only reasons we can suppose, for refusing to spare a small pittance of our present income, for the sake of securing very ample emoluments to the society in future times.

It is in vain, that they endeavour still to represent this difference of opinion, as a contest between the two societies. They are not the King's College: They are only seven members of fifteen. Two of the other members, have joined with the whole body of the Marischal College for procuring an Union. The remaining six have not joined with the Principal, and tho' we have not urged any of them to take a share in the active measures we pursue, yet we are assured, that several, perhaps all of them, desire much to see an Union accomplished, and perceive no objection to the outlines we have proposed. To one of these gentlemen we are indebted for suggesting that proposal of arbitration, which our opponents superciliously rejected.

Let it be taken for granted, however, that the Marischal College is opposed to King's College, and has solicited a Royal Visitation of both. Is not his Majesty the Patron of both societies, and Chancellor of King's College? Will Visitors be appointed without good cause? Will they, when appointed, proceed with a *high hand*, from pure authority, and without law, to harass individuals, to

annual foundations and statutes, contrary to justice, or public utility? Is it decent to express such apprehensions? Or is it a becoming application of the money of either society, to employ it in consulting lawyers, and seeing agents, to oppose the exercise of that established and salutary branch of Royal Prerogative?

But they have too great a *regard for liberty* to acquiesce. In zeal for liberty, and a true comprehension of its interests, Buchanan was at least equal to any modern Professor. Yet he, in the reformation of St. Andrew's, recommends Quadriennial Visitations by the Crown; nor will it be thought that, in the present age, periodical Visitations, at longer intervals, would prove detrimental to any public interest.

Ought it indeed to be supposed, that in these times, and under the present reign, any but the best consequences can arise, from the attention, or interposition of the Sovereign in academical affairs? Will it occasion any injury to individuals? Is it not likely that the interests of learning will be promoted? May it not produce some new manifestations of Royal Bounty, if the state of these societies be found to require it? And should the Principal of King's College, with his adherents, proceed according to the purport of a resolution entered in their records, to employ lawyers for resisting a Visitation, will not that be acting *just as* the old Lady, somewhat disordered in mind, who sent for her attorney and feed him, to keep the physician from entering her house?

In the conclusion of their Memorial, they declare a fixed purpose, of avoiding all altercation on the subject. Had they formed this prudent resolution some weeks ago, we should have been spared the task of refuting their advertisement, in all the newspapers of this country.

Equally desirous to avoid altercation, we profess the utmost readiness to explain our sentiments and views to the public. We thank that public for much favourable attention, and support. The cause which we maintain is their cause; and seems to be understood to be so. In the face of this declared opposition, we proceed with good hopes of success, wishing still to profit by every suggestion of improvement in our plan, which the friends of literature and good education shall be pleased to communicate.

Once more, we intreat our opponents to return to those sentiments which did them honour in former years; to consider the subject coolly, as a public interest, as connected with the advancement of learning, which we believe they still love; as that "in which the Country in general, and the whole North of Scotland, has a greater interest than any Society or Town," and when they are disposed so to consider it, they may be assured, that "whatever our recollection may suggest," we shall be ready "to have concert with them" even with any of them, for the good purpose of effecting so desirable an end.

[*The passages marked with inverted commas are copied from original papers written by some of the gentlemen in opposition, which are now in our possession, and may perhaps be hereafter published.*]

I N F O R M A T I O N

From the Principal and Professors of the University and King's College of Aberdeen.

WE readily leave the public to form its own judgment of the *Observations* on our memorial, published by the gentlemen of the Marischal College, with the two in King's who join them in supporting an Union, so far as respects either the temper with which they are written, or the force of the arguments employed in them. But by our promise to *explain*, we think ourselves obliged, even without its being desired, to give information concerning some things, held forth by these gentlemen as facts, the real state of which the generality cannot be supposed to have access to know.

We neither are ignorant of the constitution of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, nor have misrepresented it in our memorial. All the Colleges and Halls in these universities are instituted for the *very same course of education*; and that course is carried on in them, as much separately as in the two Colleges of Aberdeen, each College having "within its own walls lectures, disputations, and all professions in the liberal arts and sciences read and taught, in so much that they seem so many complete

“plete Universities, and are not inferior to some in our
 “neighbouring countries *.” The persons indeed who
 carry it on are termed *Fellows* and *Tutors*, not *Professors*: but they correspond precisely to those who are called *Professors here*: and though the members of both these Colleges be now best known by this designation, yet it occurs not so much as *once* in the Foundation of either College: in that of King’s, the members are designed either in general *Doctors* and *Masters*, or in relation to their places and faculties, *Principalis*, *Canonista*, *Civilista*, *Medicus*, *Subprincipalis*, *Grammaticus*, *Regentes*, &c. and in that of the Marischal *Gymnasiarum*, *Præceptores*, *Regentes*, *Magistri*. There is therefore no ground, even in name, to compare them with those who are termed *Professors* in the English Universities, whose province is totally different. These are all of much latter erection than many of the Colleges; they do not, as Professors, belong to any particular College, but to the University at large; their business is to give a number of Public Lectures, fixed by their several Founders, not in any College, but in the public Schools of the University; and these lectures the scholars of *all* the Colleges, of certain descriptions, are by the statutes obliged to attend; though no lectures are now in fact given by most of them. But by the *Fellows* of each College, the course of education was carried on, separately, for centuries before there was any of the places now called professorships, in either University; and by *them* it still continues to be carried on in the same manner.

If the Gentlemen who favour the Union had been pleased to make enquiry before they published their *Observations*, they would have learned that the *proper authority*, by which the Professors of Oriental Languages and Divinity were incorporated into the King’s College, was *not that of a Visitation*: but *legal sentences of the Court of Session*, pronounced in Processes of Declarator, raised first in favour of Mr. George Gordon, and afterwards on his success by Mr. David Anderson; and finding that, by the Royal Charters of King William and of King Charles I. they had a right to be so incorporated. This being the case, upon record in the Minutes of King’s College, and

no doubt likewise in the Books of Council and Session, it can afford no argument for the unlimited power of a Visitation, which these gentlemen are so anxious to establish.

If they had consulted, with sufficient care, the records of the Visitation of St. Andrew's in 1579, they would have found it as little to their purpose : for it was *not a Royal*, but a *Parliamentary* Visitation.—These two are totally different. Parliamentary Visitors derive their authority from an act of the whole Legislature, and may be invested with whatever powers the Legislature can confer upon them. In the Parliament which met July 25, 1578, there was passed an act, appointing a Visitation of Universities and Colleges; and under the authority of that law, Buchanan and his associates acted in visiting St. Andrew's in 1579, and made reformations in it, which were ratified in the Parliament which met October 20, 1579. The occasion of this Visitation was likewise great and extraordinary. The Universities had been erected in the times of Popery, and their Foundations were framed in conformity to that religion. But the reformation having been now established, many things in these Foundations became improper and impracticable; and therefore the Parliament empowered several great or learned men, to visit the Universities, and to make such alterations in their Foundations, as the change of religion rendered necessary. Thus empowered, they did visit them, and framed new Foundations and Statutes, which were afterwards ratified by Acts of Parliament.—On the contrary, a *Royal* Visitation is appointed by *the King alone*, by virtue of his Prerogative; and, without enquiring into the precise extent of Prerogative in this matter, we may certainly hold it clear, that it cannot bestow any powers on Visitors to do what is contrary to established laws; and that *ould Foundations*, repeatedly confirmed by Acts of Parliament, must be, till they be by Parliament annulled, considered as established laws.

AS soon as we had published the foregoing part of our Information †, our opponents were in haste to publish *Remarks* upon it ‡. The weight of what they reply concerning the English Universities, we leave to recommend itself. The other two points, we find it necessary to take some notice of.

That it was the authority of a *Royal Visitation*, which incorporated the Professors of Divinity and Oriental Languages into the King's College, was brought forth in the *Observations*, in the form indeed of an *interrogation*, but expressly as one instance, and the first, of *what powers have been exercised by Royal Visitors in these Universities*, and so expressly as an affirmation of that fact, that no address can explain it away into another meaning. Yet after this, these Gentlemen, in their *Remarks*, affect to have asked for information on this subject. It was doubtless their duty to have got certain information, before they imposed it on the public as a fact: but from us they have, in the present circumstances, no title to demand information either in a private or public manner. They, notwithstanding, now again enquire, whether the Royal Charters, which gave these Members a right to be incorporated, were not issued in consequence of the reports of Visitors? If they mean to intimate that they were, they will again deceive the public; for neither King Charles's Charter in 1642, (not 1619, which happens to be six years before he began to reign) nor King William's in 1698, have the remotest reference to any report of Royal Visitors, of whom there was indeed no appointment, at least during the latter reign.

In order to shew, that the Visitation of St. Andrew's in 1579, was not *parliamentary*, they quote an act of the Lords of *secret council*, appointing it. But that act rests wholly on the authority of the act of *parliament* 1578, to which we referred; for this appoints the persons named in it, for reforming what tended to superstition, idolatry, and papistry, *to report their proceedings to the King's grace and counsel, the first day of January next to cum, and to that effect, that they may tak furthyr order thereuntill, gif need*

† Aberdeen Journal Sept 4, 1786.

Ibid. Sept 11, 18.

beis. And the act of parliament 1579, entitled, *Ratification of the Reformation of the University of St. Andrews*, expressly refers, in the preamble, to that former law, as authorizing the Visitation of that University *. It is not therefore material, what alterations in the form of the University were then made: but they were not so great as those which are now proposed; in particular, *three* distinct Colleges were retained in that University, *two* of them, within a few paces of one another, for teaching the same elements of Greek, Latin, and Philosophy: and when these two were not very long ago united, it was on the clearest grounds of expediency, and even necessity for the support of the Masters, and only with the consent, and on the application, of all the parties concerned.

In consequence of the act of parliament 1578, and of a special act passed in 1584, on an application from *the Masters of the College of Aberdeen*, and giving *commission anent erection of the College of Aberdeen*, a reformed (com-

* It gives us pain to remark all the *inaccuracies* in which these gentlemen allow themselves. In their *Observations* they assert that *powers were vested in the Visitors*, to redress the form of study, &c. *and foundations, &c. notwithstanding*. But in the Act of Council vesting them with their powers (exactly conformable to the Act of Parliament 1578) there is no such clause as the latter. It is found only in the *Act of Ratification* following the visitation. This act begins with narrating both the Act of Parliament 1578, and the Act of secret council consequent upon it, then adopts the whole form of reformation proposed by the Visitors, next appoints certain persons for carrying that reformation into execution, by force, if necessary; and, after all this, declares, in the very conclusion, that by so doing they shall incur no danger, nor be called nor accused for the same by any manner of way in time coming, *the auld foundationis and erectionis of the saidis Colleges and hail University or any thing conteint therein notwithstanding*, grant his Majesty with advise of his saidis *estatis* (of Parliament) *dispenses*. Standing in this connexion, it has no possible reference to powers vested in Royal Visitors for disregarding Foundations; but very strongly the contrary, as clearly implying their being held so sacred, that Parliament reckoned an act previously and specially dispensing with them, necessary to the safety of those who were to act, even under the authority of Parliament itself, in opposition to, or deviation from them.

monly called the *new*) Foundation was granted to this College by King James VI. in 1592, and ratified by parliament in 1597. It was neither *Visitors*, nor the College's *own authority*, as the gentlemen are pleased to represent, but the *new Foundation*, both previously authorized, and subsequently ratified, by act of parliament, that suppressed the Professor of *Canon Law*. They add, the Professor of *Musick*: but in the King's College there never was such. We suppose they mean the *Cantor*: but he was none of the Doctors, Masters, Batchelors, Students, or Scholars; he was one of the *eight Prebendary Priests* of the Chapel, (who are always carefully distinguished from the others) whose business it was to regulate the music in the chapel, to lead the choir, and to teach music to the six singing boys belonging to it, and others willing to learn: and it was by the same *new Foundation*, that the *Cantor*, along with all the other Prebends of the Chapel, was suppressed.

The *new Foundation*, proceeding on a narration of many things in the *old* being adapted to the popish times, and of the insufficiency of the revenue for supporting so many members, proposed to cut off all superfluous and useless persons, and such as suited not the present state of religion; and reduced the Masters to a *Principal*, a *Sub-principal*, with *three* other *Regents*, and a *Grammarian*. This Foundation, by its cutting off entirely the faculties of Law and Medicine, by its expressing less fully than the old, the privileges of the University, and by the alterations which it made in the mode of elections, was considered as taking much from the dignity and independence of the Society. But in 1617, an act of parliament allowed and confirmed to the College and University, its *old* privileges, immunities, and jurisdictions, and all such as it or any other had at any time enjoyed, (which another act of parliament, in 1633, ratified more explicitly, and with express reference to the old foundations in 1505 and 1527, and to the laws confirming them) from which, occasion was taken, by a Royal Visitation in 1619, for reviving the office of *Canonist*, but for a long time without a salary, till it was again dropt in 1640; and in 1664, Visitors appointed under the Great Seal, for prosecuting more effectually the act of parliament for *better provision of Universities*, found, "That there is no present *Canonist*,

Canonist, neither any necessity for that profession; and in this, the Parliamentary Visitation in 1690 made no alteration. Our opponents are welcome to any conclusion which can be fairly drawn from these facts.

They affirm, that the Royal Visitation in 1727, (which was of the College of Glasgow) was intended for *the very purpose of over-ruling the force of a majority established by cabal*. We recollect to have seen something like this asserted in anonymous papers, printed near two years ago in favour of one Member of that College, who was engaged in opposition to almost all the rest; and it was a representation of the matter very suitable to his views. But by information from very respectable Members of that Society, we are authorized to say, that it is a misrepresentation;—that that Visitation was intended for explaining some disputed statutes particularly one relating to the election of the Rector, about which there had been long and violent contentions;—and that the acts of the Visitors regard only, the manner of chusing a Rector, and of keeping the Faculty Meetings and their Minutes;—the right of presiding in these, and of ordering payments of money;—the factor, and the manner of keeping his accounts, and paying the Masters and Bursars; and what each of the Masters shall teach, their hours of teaching, and the length of their Sessions.

They go so far as to assert, that *to break such majorities is one of the most frequent objects of Visitations*. We can easily see where such language originates; but we cannot see with what propriety the Members of the Marischal College can throw out the insinuation which it implies. We know, however, that such an object is not so much as hinted at, either in the Commissions or the Acts of the Visitations, whether Royal or Parliamentary in 1563, 1619, 1661, 1663, 1664, 1669, 1675, 1680, 1690; 1717; that in all these the *Foundations* are held to be the rule of proceeding; and that no powers are either granted, or attempted to be exercised, beyond those which our Memorial states as the objects of *all former Royal Visitations*; such as, calling for the Foundations; enquiring whether they be observed, if any defects or changes have crept in, and by what means; reviving them, and making rules for enforcing the observance of them, directing the

teaching in the several classes ; taking account of the revenue, and whether the Masters receive their appointed salaries and have such as are competent ; discovering and correcting abuses ; censuring delinquents, especially faction, and factious persons, who are troublesome in the society to which they belong. An application was made last year for a Visitation of the College of Glasgow, in order to the very end which they mention, fairly avowed, not attempted under any different pretence : and it was refused in a manner which can give little encouragement to similar applications.

We had said, that former Royal Visitations added *NEW Statutes where the necessity of them had been previously decided by a majority*. They omitting the restriction *new*, desire us to be assured that *Visitations are not accustomed to do so*. But they must excuse us from accepting their assurance, when we know from the act of Parliament 1584, that *the form of Erection in the College of Aberdeen had been conceived by the Masters*, and was on their supplication, referred by that act, to persons there named, that, on their report, it might be confirmed ; and from the Acts of Visitation 1669, 1675, 1690, that many points, even such as were not strictly *new* statutes, were expressly referred to the determination, of the Masters and Members, and on their determination, enacted by the Visitors ; and when we have unquestionable evidence, that the very position which we lay down, was on the late application from Glasgow delivered from the highest authority.

In their *remarks* on the first part of our *information*, they assert, that the charter conferring the Bishops rents on these Colleges in 1641, and uniting them into one University, *is founded on the report of a Royal Visitation*. If it were so, it could be nothing to their purpose : For that Union left the two as distinct Colleges, (though in one University) in respect of their privileges, revenue, and offices, as they are since it was rescinded ; and without encroaching on the constitution or any one right of either, the charter made a gratuitous addition to the revenue of both, things nowise similar to the great and violent changes proposed by the present scheme. But the fact is, that the charter proceeds on a narrative of the King's having appointed certain persons for the single purpose of *enquiring into the present*

present state of the University of Old Aberdeen and his College of the same, and likewise of the new College of Aberdeen called the Marischal College, and what would be necessary for their future help and support; and of their having reported that it would require about 500 l. sterling, and it unites them, in the manner already mentioned, and grants them the rents of the Bishoprick of Aberdeen.

The conclusion which they are anxious to draw from all these particulars, is, that we confine the powers of Royal Visitors within too *narrow limits*. But when the matters of fact are thustruly and accurately stated, the conclusion is of course inverted. It remains true, that the purpose for which they solicit a Royal Visitation, is wholly new; and that, since it could not accomplish that purpose, except by being vested with *unprecedented* powers, the solicitation for it is totally improper.

To fix on us a charge of inconsistency, they represent us as, in other parts of our Memorial, ascribing *despotic* and *arbitrary* powers to Visitors. It is so far from being the case, that, in these parts, we speak not at all of the powers *actually* belonging to Royal Visitors, or of *our* idea of them; but solely of the powers which would be necessary for enabling them to effect an Union in opposition to one of the Colleges, and that, the privileges of which alone it would encroach upon: and of the powers which they who apply for Visitors in order to that end, must suppose to belong to them, and intend that they should exercise. If a Visitation is not really to effect an Union, it can be to no purpose to solicit it; And if it is really to effect it under the present circumstances, we still see not how it can be, except by *forcing* it on that College which declares decidedly against it, by its own authority, even by pure authority, and with a high hand; we as little see what *law or known rules* there are for directing or limiting them, or how there can be an Union without annulling the present Foundations, by which the Colleges are plainly two. But the *decency* of supposing that a Visitation will be appointed for such purposes, or, if appointed, will proceed in such a manner, belongs exclusively to those who solicit it, not to us who declare the solicitation to be in every point of view improper.

While they hold forth an *Union* as the object of the proposed

proposed Visitation, they intimate that the private complaints of one of our colleagues might likewise be brought forward, and give hints of *peculation, abuse, encroachment on the intentions of the Founder on various occasions and for various purposes*, hints of which we are well informed that some of them have not, in more private and concealed ways, been sparing; and they attribute to us grievous *apprehensions* on that head. We will make no remarks concerning the propriety of the gentlemen of the *Marischal College* interesting themselves in that matter, or the candour of bringing it before a Visitation solicited for a totally different purpose. We repeat, that we have no *apprehensions* on that head: And we can have no reason for any; for we can assure the public with perfect truth, and whenever it becomes necessary can demonstrate, that we have never entered into a single transaction for which our foundation gives us not the *fullest powers*, and which has not been clearly for the advancement of the *public revenue*, and that the accession to it has been applied to every other purpose to which it was by the Foundation applicable in a *far higher* proportion than to the augmentation of the *salaries* of the masters.

They profess that a solicitation for a Visitation was not their *choice*, and that they were laid under a necessity of adopting it, as the *last expedient* in their power. Yet it was one of the very *first* steps of which they thought; it had been proposed before any treaty with us was rejected, or so much as asked: it was mentioned to us along with the *first* intimation of any design for an Union, and mentioned as an expedient for over-ruling those members who might oppose an Union. When they now say, that they mean not to *force us into any thing which we ought to resist*, they avow their intention of *compelling* the King's College, and at the same time take upon them to judge for us what *we ought* and *ought not to do*.

As an evidence of their reluctance to a Visitation, they urge their proposal of an *arbitration* to the Rectors of the two Colleges, which they accuse us of rejecting *superciliously*, and with an unbecoming want of *respect* to these two gentlemen. They did indeed propose that arbitration, and in a manner which, if we indulged ourselves in general epithets, we might without impropriety term *supercilious*.

Above

Above a year after they had proposed a Visitation, three weeks at least after they had been circulating their Petition and Outlines, and had obtained all the subscriptions that they could in approbation of them, on Saturday August 5, they proposed to us, *That it should be referred to the two Rectors, to digest such a plan as they after, hearing both sides, shall think proper in all respects and practicable; each member of both parties binding himself not to oppose, directly or indirectly, that plan of Union which the Rectors shall agree on; and demanded an answer by Tuesday thereafter.* By this proposal, they require us to acquiesce in a project for an immediate Union, without allowing us a choice; they take upon themselves to name the arbiters for both parties; Gentlemen for whom we have the very highest respect; but one of them a subscriber of their petition, and by that means one of themselves; and they assign us not four days, during all which some of us too were from home, for considering it; with a verbal intimation that, if we agreed not to it in that time, they would send up their petition to the King. We did indeed reject their proposal, but with the utmost possible respect to the Rectors. Our answer was to this purpose, *That we would with candour and the strictest impartiality consider any plan digested by the Rectors, having in our eye the public utility and the rights and privileges of the King's College, and would return an answer in writing, but that this could not be done in concert with the gentlemen of the Marischal College, or their two abettors of the King's College, for reasons which their own recollection would readily suggest.* Farther we could not go: For a plan of Union involves many rights and privileges of the University, which we have no powers to submit to arbitration: And after some of us had on a former occasion, agreed to submit a point relating only to one of these, they had the opinion of the most eminent lawyers, that they had exceeded their powers.

In order to establish the right of the Marischal College to take the unexampled step of soliciting a Visitation of the King's College, they throw out that the King is its Patron and Chancellor, and think this sufficient. We reckon it indeed the honour of the King's College, that it was at its first erection taken under the peculiar patronage of the King, and that this patronage has been afforded it

by all succeeding Sovereigns ; and we have no doubt that the same patronage will be exercised by our most gracious Sovereign, for its protection against that invasion of its rights which is now projected. The Bishop of Aberdeen was Chancellor of King's College : When the office of Bishop was abolished by law, the members did on January 6, 1643, elect the Marquis of Huntly Chancellor ; since that time they have often exercised the right of election : and it has never been refused to them. If the King be notwithstanding our Chancellor, he must be equally Chancellor of St. Andrews and Glasgow (of both which the Archbishops were originally Chancellors) and the Marischal College will have the very same right to solicit Visitations of both these Universities, whenever they please, and for whatever end they please, without their consent or knowledge, which they assume, in the present instance, to solicit, in that manner, a Visitation of the University and King's College of Aberdeen.

The promoters of an Union repeatedly affirm, that our *Memorial* is not the Memorial of the *University*, (which they represent as consisting of a Rector and fourteen members) as not having the sanction of the Rector's approbation, nor of any meeting where more than six were present. But if they had looked into the *foundation*, they would have found, that the Principal and Masters at present ten, are the only persons to whom it commits the management of all College matters in the *first* instance ; and they could not but see both from the very first sentence of the memorial, and from the subjoined address, that in the name of these alone it is presented to the public. By the foundation, the Rector, in conjunction with his assessors forming a court, is the ordinary *Visitor* of the College, empowered, once a year to *review* and judge of the past proceedings of the Principal and Masters, and to redress such abuses as already do exist. But by it, the four assessors are constituent members of no meeting except that *Rectoral meeting for Visitation* ; and the Rector, besides it, only in certain *elections*, there specified, but in no case, has a negative, as has been thrown out to the public : We know however with certainty, that *all* these five gentlemen are very far from either approving the present Plan of Union, or having no objections to their *outlines*.

Our

Our Memorial was published under the authority of a meeting regularly called, of those constitutionally interested in it: And if, after this, they will hold the Memorial, not to be that of the *University*, they must likewise hold, *that TWO are more than SEVEN.*

They even accuse us of inaccuracy in considering the King's College as one of the two parties concerned in an Union, and the Marischal College as the other. Yet they cannot but know, that at the time alluded to there were no Rector nor assessors in the King's College: And of ten, seven against two, cannot but be the College. These two are only *dissenters* from the College; in that character only they can be heard; they have no right to incorporate themselves with the Marischal College, or to assume a *nomen juris* to themselves in conjunction with its members. They ought likewise to have recollected, that neither of these two was present at the meeting where an union was proposed, that the proposal was made solely by the members of the Marischal College, in their own name, and to the King's College; and that they were not then very forward in acknowledging even their communication with those two, much less their being their associates in every step.

They call upon us to explain why in 1754 the Masters of the King's College were *remarkably more eager* for an Union, than those of the Marischal. It is of little importance; but the matter of fact, which most of us have good access to know, was *otherwise*: for some of the most respectable members of that College were not, till after a considerable time, and with great difficulty, prevailed upon to concur in the measures pursued. We blame not the members of the Marischal College for eagerness to obtain the *consent* of the King's, to an Union so clearly and exclusively advantageous to them: But when it leads them to attempt *forcing* it, against that consent, it becomes a *species* of eagerness, which cannot with truth be imputed to this College or a single member of it, at any period.

In their eagerness to cast personal reflections upon us, they assert that we throw out *hints not obscurely couched*, that if an augmentation of salaries could only be secured, we would be unanimous for an Union; and that we avow that it is on account of its excluding this that we oppose
the

the present Plan of Union. But our Memorial needs only to be read to convince any person, that we throw out no such hint, and that every page of it contains many totally different reasons for our opposition, drawn from the unexampled manner in which the scheme has been all along conducted, its inutility, its impracticability, its contradiction to our foundation. Nay their great complaint both in their own *outlines* and their *observations*, is, that from the very beginning, and before any one particular of their Plan was imparted to us, we refused any conference with them about an Union.

Returning to this favourite topic, they accuse us of asserting that *ample* salaries are indispensibly requisite. It will appear by only turning to page 10. of our Memorial, how much they misrepresent our words, and we are sorry to find it necessary to desire the reader to compare many of their other allusions to it with the Memorial itself, before he take it for granted that they are not either partial or perverted.

They are now, however, willing to admit all augmentations of salaries by the progressive improvement of the funds from which they now arise, and wonder that we could have supposed them to mean otherwise. But we still think even this irreconcilable to their assertion, that *ALL augmentation of Salaries shall be confined to those Professors who receive not fees*. Augmentations arising from the suppression of offices and the sale of buildings, their *observations* represent as *misapplication and sacrilege*: Yet their *outlines* allow augmentations, even from the accumulating fund arising from that source, provided *three* of the members do not dissent from it. By their own proposal, then, the whole of that fund might, by less than unanimity, be applied either directly or indirectly, to augmentation of salaries: and it would, in no long time, amount to so great opulence as might be dangerous in the hands of any University, and render its members independent of all teaching. And this very circumstance, notwithstanding their *increasing attachment* and their boasts of *public approbation*, makes many who have attended to it, reprobate their scheme of accumulation.

They assert that we speak of the patronage of offices now belonging to the King's College as to be *used like money in our purse*. From beginning to end of our Memorial

memorial, we defy them to find such an expression or any like it. *Purse* occurs indeed in a set of anonymous Queries, for which we are in no degree accountable; but even in it, there is not a hint of *using* patronage like money nor any thing which amounts to more than this, That the rights of Corporations and Colleges are as much secured by Law, as those of individuals, a proposition which we cannot suppose any man hardy enough to deny. They likewise represent us stating that expensive dues, new classes and prolonged sessions, will be the consequences of an Union; but in this they again impute to us an *anonymous* paper, drawn up by one of the public, without so much as the knowledge of *any one* of us; but which an endeavour has been in vain made to answer, by a person who professes himself well acquainted with what has passed in our *College Meetings*.—We should be sorry, if their propensity to such imputations, arose from a consciousness of themselves being the authors of all the misrepresentation and abuse which has been *anonymously* thrown out against us.—With the like justice, they represent us as speaking of the endowments of a College as our *family estate*. If they were such, we would have an undoubted right to defend them against such claims for a participation in them as are now made by the Marischal College; but we would likewise have a right to surrender them if we chose. But our *Memorial* is so far from speaking of them as such, that on the *contrary* it plainly and repeatedly asserts that we are *Trustees* for them, and as such have *no power* to surrender them from our successors, or from the King's College.

They assert that on the proposed Plan there will be no occasion for Vice-patronages. Certainly if three offices be suppressed, either the patrons of three must be wholly deprived of their right, or must be satisfied with a Vice along with other three. If it is not proposed that any other patron should be satisfied with a Vice, the proposal of the members of Marischal College must be, that the King's College be stripped of *all the three* patronages, without their consent, on a supposed compensation, an interest, joint with the Marischal College which surrenders nothing, in a stock which we have, not at random, but from an estimate of the funds, affirmed to be so inadequate to the purposes intended, as would render their plan abortive, but

but which they now profess their willingness to burden with an additional professorship. What we had said of patronages, plainly in reference to the proposed invasion of the privileges of King's College, our opponents represent us as addressing to *one* patron: But there are *more than one* who are concerned to attend to it; for if a Visitation is really empowered to *form a Plan*, the proposals of our opponents on this or any other particular are of little moment, they will not be implicitly adopted; the Visitors will follow their own ideas, which may possibly lead them to think the patronage of Professorships more properly vested in the University, than in some other hands; in which event objectors will have the consolation which is held forth to the King's College, the trouble and expence of opposing a Bill in Parliament.

The interest which the public have in seminaries of learning, can give them no right to insist at pleasure on alterations of their Charters, or encroachments on their rights. Tho' Universities, as well as all other corporations, are intended for the public good, the public are not entitled to prescribe to a founder in what manner and degree he shall contribute to that good, nor to alter his determinations afterwards. They must accept of his donations on his own terms, or reject them altogether; and if they wish for advantages which he has not provided, they must seek for them by other means. Parliament is indeed omnipotent; but it is not in use of altering foundations, on account of expediency, except it be both very great and demonstrably certain.

In estimating the advantages proposed by an Union, the point is not, that it would be an advantage to have at Aberdeen, flourishing schools of law and medicine regularly attended by able Professors; for about this there is no difference of opinion, nor any need of declamation: but it is, whether such can be expected with any certainty? We have produced many facts and reasons which led us to believe that they cannot, of some of which they take no notice; and from others infer, rather, that without an Union they cannot, than that by an Union they certainly will take place, which would have been the only pertinent conclusion. We asked for proof that they would take place; they produce only a repetition of *hopes and wishes*.

We

We proposed at least a trial, and the fact which we mentioned concerning the Professors of Divinity, on which they chuse to be silent, is a full confutation of *the point of honour* in not leaving the College in which students entered, which they now say would render such a trial *in vain*. If the certainty of success were even proved; it would still remain proper, previous to determining for an Union, to enquire, whether the advantage may not be obtained by easier or more eligible means, whether a plan of Union subversive of the destination of Founders ought to be attempted, and whether it can be justly pursued or reasonably expected in face of the opposition of that College whose privileges would be principally or solely affected by it: and on these points we reckon it unnecessary to add any thing to what we have already said.

Among the advantages of an Union, our opponents never fail to introduce *numerous classes*; one certain good consequence of which would be *numerous fees*; and it seems to us the only *good* consequence that is even probable.

They repretent our sentiments concerning the motives of Professors to exertion as widely different from theirs. But they may find in our Memorial, that far from declaring *little rivalships* a proper stimulus, we give no opinion of *our own* in speaking even of *emulation*, but that we simply relate the opinion of *others*; an opinion which always has been, and still is held by a great part of the public, very respectable, and, for the sake of their sons, deeply interested in the state of the Colleges.

In place of what we have said that the very elevation of persons of high rank may prevent their having perfect knowledge of *the state of this part of the country and of the course of education which it requires or can admit*, our opponents substitute, of *academical concerns*. When they addressed some of the clergy for their approbation of their *Outlines*, it was as persons *so highly interested in its success, and so well qualified to judge of its utility*: But now they are imperfectly qualified for judging of questions relating to *the constitution of Universities, and the plan on which they ought to be modelled anew*; the very question to which the *Outlines* refer. In our Memorial, we expressed what we knew to have always been the general sentiments of this learned body, respectable on every account, and more than

than any other class of men interested in the state of these Colleges; those of them too who compose the Synod of Aberdeen peculiarly concerned, as being the Founders, Patrons, and Visitors of the Professorship of Divinity in our University. We have good reason to believe that they still retain the same sentiments concerning the advantages arising from two Colleges; and are persuaded that few of them will be disposed to sacrifice these *certainties*, for the sake of Prospects *precarious* at best, and, as far as experience can enable us to judge, even altogether *visionary*. The Synod of Aberdeen in particular, we cannot doubt, will see reason to discountenance any application made without their knowledge, for fixing a plan of Union which involves the rights and interests of their Professorship, and might affect these materially, against their consent, and even without their having an opportunity of being previously heard. Our opponents very often boast of the approbation of the intelligent and liberal public, as if it were undividedly theirs: But we have the satisfaction of knowing that, without solicitation, and after hearing both sides, we and our cause have the entire approbation of very many of every rank, and among them such as are well acquainted with the constitution both of the English and foreign Universities, and have pursued their studies in them.

We disdain either taking notice of or returning the polite epithets and general charges of *misrepresentations*, *pertinacity*, *inconsistence*, *erroneous or querulous accounts*, *dogmatic assertions*, *chusing to mistake*, *controversial skill*, &c. which these Gentlemen bestow so liberally. While we have found it necessary to correct them in so many points of fact, on which they built either reflections against us, or inferences against our cause, we mean not an undistinguished charge of wilful misrepresentation. We know many of them, and wish to believe all of them, incapable of it, and suppose that most of them, if they really saw the Observations and Remarks before publication *in their name* have only given too implicit credit to a few, who had imperfect knowledge of the matters of which they wrote, and whose sanguine imaginations converted all that they thought they knew, into the form most favourable to their wishes. If they shall go on in the like manner, we shall reckon

reckon ourselves under no obligation to follow them, or to take notice either of their, or of any anonymous calls; and we desire the Public not to suppose us answerable for any publications in our favour; which are not given in our name. We shall content ourselves with continuing firmly, calmly, and constitutionally, to defend the rights of this University against every attack that shall be made upon them, from whatever quarter.

Letter from SIR WILLIAM FORBES, Bart. LORD RECTOR of the University of OLD ABERDEEN, published in the Aberdeen Journal of October 16th, 1786.

Sempill-house, October 9th, 1786.

SIR,

FROM several paragraphs which have appeared in different papers lately inserted in your Journal, relative to the grand object at present before the public, (viz an Union of the two Universities.) I think it necessary for me as *Rector* of the University and King's College of Aberdeen, to declare in this public manner, that I highly approve of the proposed Plan of Union, and that I have not as yet heard of any objections to the Outlines, which may not, in my opinion, be easily removed.

I am, &c.

WM. FORBES.

*To the Printer of the }
Aberdeen Journal. }*

N. B. One of the paragraphs alluded to in the above letter may be seen in the INFORMATION from King's College, the words are, "We know however with certainty, that all these five gentlemen (meaning the Rector and four Assessors) are very far from either approving the present plan of Union, or having no objection to their Outlines."

H

REMARKS

R E M A R K S

On the Information from the Principal and Professors of the University and King's College of Aberdeen. By the Professors of both Colleges who wish to promote an Union.

IT has been ludicrously observed, that there are two Universities in England, and two in Aberdeen. If any such comparison is seriously made, it must appear very far from pertinent, and the gentlemen who first made, and now insist on it; have incurred some suspicion of wishing to introduce obscurity and confusion into certain questions before the public.

We may be permitted however to remark, that all the Colleges in Scotland have certain members called Professors, who have been so called since the time of Buchanan at least, and who discharge the very same duties, which the English Professors are appointed to discharge; they give public lectures, at fixed hours, on one or two branches of science, to all who chuse to attend them, and certain classes of students are obliged to attend these lectures, whereas the *Fellows* of English Colleges are never called Professors, nor are they designed by the names of *Principalis*, *Medicus*, *Civilista*, &c. given to the Scotch Professors in their ancient foundations: They are not required to give public lectures on any branch of science, and no class of students is obliged to attend any of them. They are authorised private tutors, who assist and direct young men in studying any branch of science or literature, and may have various classes of pupils under their care at the same time.

Again, altho' the English Colleges may *seem* to Ayliffe and these gentlemen to be Universities, yet they are not: Nor do they confer degrees of any kind: Whereas the Colleges in Scotland are also Universities, and confer degrees in arts, medicine, law, and divinity.—This is particularly the case at Aberdeen, and the absurdity of having two such Universities, seated within a mile of each other, with distinct sets of public lectures, and each separately conferring degrees in every faculty, is strikingly obvious. Most of our opponents twice thought it so: And one of them has described it well in the following statement:

“ The

"The impropriety of two Universities less than a mile distant from one another, is so striking, that all who are not particularly acquainted with the fact, take it for granted that these two Colleges form one University, and Government has considered them as such in several of its grants, and conjoined them in the exercise of several of their privileges."

Certainly it is not with the Universities of England that we or our opponents ought to compare the system of education at this place; but with the flourishing Universities of North Britain. It is our ambition to approach nearer to the most eminent of these, by pursuing the same plan, and forming the same institutions for public service. If by their *vigorous efforts*, these gentlemen should frustrate our endeavours, (which yet we fear not) what honour can they derive from success?

We have asked in a public manner (our private enquiries being obstructed) whether the Professors of Divinity and of Oriental Languages were not superadded to King's College by the authority of Visitors. It is replied, that they were not, but by sentences of the Court of Session.——We remark, that these judgments of the Court of Session, did not establish, but only declared them established, by proper authority; and we enquire, whether the royal charters, on which these judgments proceed, were not themselves issued, in consequence of, and in conformity to, the reports of Visitors, in the years 1619 and 1695.

We certainly know, that a more important Charter, that which conferred the Bishops rents on these colleges in 1641, uniting them into one University, and holding them so united, until the restoration of Episcopacy in 1661, is founded on the report of a Royal Visitation in 1641.

We beg leave once more to enquire, since they are silent on that head, by what proper authority the Professorships of Music and of Canon Law have been suppressed; and whether their revenues are applied in any way, which is not as great, or a greater deviation from the Foundation of that college, than any that can be required for accomplishing the proposed Union?

The records of the visitation of St. Andrew's in 1579, were consulted by us with some care; and we are certain, notwithstanding what they represent, that Buchanan and

his associates were *impowered* by a commission from the King in council, which is narrated in the following terms :

“ His Highness, *with the advice of the Lords of secret council*, ordainit and commandit the masters of the said university, to be at Edinburgh, at ane certain day, with the foundations of their colleges, to be seen and considerit, be any six, five, or four, of sic able, reverent, and circumspect persons *as his Majesty with advice of his said council had chosen, and committit to them full power to visit* and consider the said foundations of the colleges, and to remove all superstition, and Papistry, to discharge unqualified persons, and plant worthy and qualified in their rooms, to redress the form of study or teaching be ma or fewer professors, to join or to divide the faculties, to annex every facultie to sic college as fall be found to be maist proper, and generally to establish sic order in that university as fall maist tend to the glory of God, profit of the common wealth, and gude upbringing of the youth in sciences needfull, for continuing the true religion to all posteritie, *like as the act of secret conncel made therein at mair length purports.*”

The proceedings of these commissioners, which changed the whole form of the university, were afterwards ratified in Parliament ; and the precedent seems very admissible in the present times, and very apposite to this case ; since these gentlemen will not agree with us, to follow a more recent and less troublesome precedent in the same university, by concerting amicably a plan of Union, to be brought directly before Parliament, without the intervention of visitors.

If, in compliance with our petition, Visitors are appointed, if they find an Union expedient, and shall adjust any plan for accomplishing it, that plan, being brought before parliament, together with the objections which these gentlemen may produce, both will there receive an ultimate discussion, and that which is best for the public will take place.

It is this full and free examination, by every competent authority, which we solicit, and they oppose.

They have represented to the public, and to his Majesty's servants, that we mean to force them into an union against
their

their inclinations.—We are far from meaning to force them into any thing which they ought to resist : we desire that their private rights may remain as much untouched as our own ; but finding that our opinion of the expediency of uniting these colleges for the improvement of learning, is so strongly confirmed by the public voice, we have made humble application to the Crown, for an enquiry in behalf of the Public with regard to the advantages of such an Union, and the means by which it may be effected, without injury to private rights, and with the least possible deviation from the antient constitution of these societies.

This enquiry, they have resolved to oppose, in all its stages, with their utmost vigour.

The enlightened public will form their own judgment, of the arguments, the temper, and the views of both parties : and to that judgment we cheerfully submit.

The sequel of their *Information* was expected by us on Monday last, but in vain.

In the mean time, we observe a suggestion has been sent abroad by our opponents, which our respect for the good opinion of the public directs us to obviate without delay.

— It is stated, that in the United University, expensive dues may be imposed on the poorer sort, new classes may be established, the students obliged to attend them, and the session may be prolonged.

These, and all such particulars, will come under the consideration of the Visitors, who will establish rules concerning them, to remain in force until another Visitation shall take place. If in the mean time any alterations or innovations should appear proper, the consent of the Synod of Aberdeen might be made requisite for their establishment. That venerable body always at hand, and perfectly competent, to decide on such questions may well be entrusted with this negative. They will neither suffer impositions on the poorer sort to take place, nor will they impede any change which the interests of learning and the improvement of education may require.—This seems an adequate check to these supposed abuses : to us, no suspicion had occurred, of their being likely to arise, and no remedy had been thought of : but we desire to profit, not less by the firmness of our opponents, than by the friendly suggestions of those who favour the scheme.

As for the indolence or superciliousness of Professors, these are surely less to be apprehended, when greater objects are held forth to assiduity and condescending manners.

It is not requisite that we should trace and unravel all the minute and subtle objections contained in this long Memorial.

The views and motives of both parties being now sufficiently known to the public, that knowledge may serve as a key, by which the candid will explain the misconceptions on either side, and the misrepresentations held forth by any.

Our opponents are pleased to make exception against certain expressions, as deficient in politeness. After opening this controversy, by an advertisement, in four or five news-papers, accusing us of an attempt to deceive the public, they might well expect some freedom, on our part, in explaining our opinion of their conduct; but that freedom has been restrained; much that might have been said has been withheld, and the very expressions singled out, have been for the most part, adopted from their own publications, where they were read by us without any emotion, as knowing them to be wholly misapplied.

If we have mentioned their controversial skill with some admiration, that ought not to have given them offence; It was the simple expression of our sentiments, which we have still new occasion to repeat.

It is no mean proof of such skill, that their Memorial and *Information* convey to all readers, not otherwise informed, a belief that we have applied for a visitation of King's College by itself, and not for a Visitation of both Colleges jointly. It is not indeed affirmed, in these Memorials, that we have made such application for a separate visitation, but this is the impression made on every mind by perusing them; and the mistake has prevailed with many.

Some persons have been astonished when informed of the truth: They thought that an application by one College (as they had been taught to suppose) for the separate visitation of another, was a harsh measure, and might give occasion to some complaint: But, as a visitation of both

both is desired by the friends of Union, and both are to be included in the same public survey, they cannot conceive the pretext on which so much clamour and outcry is founded.—What inconvenience, what harm can arise to the one, in which the other must not equally partake?

Others have seen nothing harsh or unreasonable, even in the supposed application for a separate visitation. They have thought that the Marischal College might have good reasons, at any time, for applying to the sovereign and common patron, for the visitation of a society, with which their interests and rights are necessarily connected, by whose proceedings their own endeavours to serve the public may be obstructed or promoted; with which they were once united in effect, and with which they remain still united in form by a royal charter, which has never been recalled.

Our opponents admit the suppression of the Canonist's office by the authority of Visitors; as to the suppression of the Professorship of music they are silent. It is certain however, that it was restored by Bishop Forbes* in 1619, but again suppressed before 1664; and surely, the suppression of these two offices by College meetings, or visitors, without applying their salaries to promote any other branch of learning, must appear to the common sense of mankind, a greater departure from both the purpose and the letter of the foundation, than any change requisite for accomplishing the proposed Union.

That commission, on which the charter of Union in 1641 proceeds, is observed by them to be not a Commission of ordinary visitation, but an extraordinary commission, for the sole purpose of enquiring into the present state of the university, and what could be necessary for its future help and support. Admitting it to be so, is not this a precedent? May not such another commission be issued for the special purpose of enquiring into the present state of the University, and what would be requisite for rendering the system of education complete? May not this commis-

* Hinc redierunt Professiones Juri. Canonici Juri Civilis, Medicinæ, et Musices

* Professor Ker's Historical notes on his Poem called *Donaides*.

sion be issued separately, or superadded to the ordinary powers of visitation?

On all occasions, they are pleased to represent the Plan of Union, now proposed, as an attempt to disannul and overturn the foundations, repeating this invective in the strongest terms.—We appeal to the candour of the public.—We hold it a *sacred duty*, to maintain and to accomplish the intentions of our founders, by every means in our power; and when the regulations and changes, necessary for that effect, are not within our own power, we think it incumbent on us, to propose them to those, who have authority competent to such purposes.

We may remind these gentlemen, that their charge comes with a bad grace from the five persons who formed and strenuously promoted the Plan of Union in 1754. That Plan manifestly tended to pervert the foundations, by suppressing eight offices, for the sole purpose of augmenting salaries, without any provision for enlarging the system of education, or for any literary purpose whatsoever. Such a Plan, accompanied with the alienation of buildings, the Original Monuments of the founder's bounty, we still continue to think somewhat a-kin to sacrilege.

We shall decline all enquiry whether the persons, who so readily impute such intentions to us, have ever themselves, in fact, violated, perverted, or treated with contempt the statutes or the evident intentions of a very liberal minded founder: For, whatever their jealousy has suggested, it was not the intention of the friends of Union to lay before Visitors any complaints respecting the supposed mismanagement or disorders in the particular affairs of King's College. To avoid every apprehension of this sort, our petition to the Throne, communicated to them, was confined to one single object. We prayed only for an appointment of Visitors, to examine into the expediency of an Union, and the means by which it might be accomplished. They have objected to this, as wanting precedent, and we may find it requisite to apply simply for a Visitation, in general terms, in conformity to the precedents on record: and we flatter ourselves that the measure will neither give them offence nor alarm.

They have repeated, with little variation, several of their

their objections to the particular articles of the proposed Plan ; and in their eagerness to encrease the number, they have brought forward new objections, not very consistent with those they had formerly advanced.

In the Memorial, they represented the University fund as insufficient for the purposes assigned : in their *Information* it is represented, as capable of amounting to so great opulence, as might be dangerous in the hands of any University. Let these suppositions refute one another : the truth will be found between them.

In the Memorial, they complain that the *humour* of three Professors might disappoint, forever, very reasonable claims to augmentation of salary from the University fund ; in the *Information*, they express their dislike, that less than unanimity should have power to apply any part of that fund to the augmentation of salaries ; the medium between these rules may be preferable to either ; and the idea, first adopted by us, was that two Professors should have the power of negating every augmentation of that kind : it was changed to three, merely in order to avoid an expected comment on their part.

The doubts, which may really have occurred to their penetration, concerning any of these articles, might easily have been cleared up in amicable conferences, had they condescended so far : in particular, it might have been explained, in what manner the inconvenience of vice-patronages may be avoided : in what manner every claim, or just expectation of the present incumbents may be secured : in what manner that security may be extended, even to contingent interests ; so that the Plans, which any of them may have reasonably formed for filling up the first vacancies in their own society, may be exposed to no disarrangement or obstruction,

They assert, that *the rights of Colleges are as much secured by law as those of individuals* : no doubt they are equally secured ; but they are not the same. The individual has right to use or to abuse his property, as he thinks fit. If he does no positive injury to others, the public will not interfere : but a College has right only to employ its endowments for the public service, according to statutes and rules prescribed. If these endowments are diverted to private interests, or nominally employed in a remiss execution

execution of the public trust, will not the legislature interpose to rectify that abuse, to supply the defects of the earlier institution, and to accomodate the whole Plan to the more effectual service of the Public ?

It may perhaps, he admitted, that "*the public are not entitled to prescribe to a Founder, in what manner and degree he shall contribute to the public good, nor to alter his destination afterwards. They must accept his donations on his own terms, or reject them altogether.*" But the endowments of King's College are not to be accounted private donations. The original revenue and late acquisitions are, for most part, public property, granted by Kings and by Bishops, with the consent of Kings, and of their own chapters : The buildings indeed, and some adjacent lands, are the private donation of the founder; and even the *omnipotence* of Parliament would forbear to alienate any part of these. The power of distributing that revenue, of appointing the Professors and others, who were to receive it, of filling up vacancies, and making statutes concerning such matters, does not originate with any private Founder or donor, but was granted by James IV. to Bishop Elphinston, and his successors in the see of Aberdeen; and, that office being now abolished by law, the power so conveyed, must have reverted to the crown without diminution, and may be exercised at pleasure by the officers of state, or a special commission of Visitors.

It is very manifest that these Gentlemen are desirous of confining the power of their public-spirited Rector within the narrowest limits: but is this agreeable to the constitution or the practice of their University ? Is not the Rector their presiding head ? Is not the general superintendence of all their affairs committed to his care ? If they can act without him at all, is it not by his tacit permission ? If he interferences, can they proceed ? During the life of their late rector, was not every measure, which deviated, in the smallest degree, from the ordinary routine, referred to him for his approbation, and instantly dropt, if that approbation was withheld ?

By the foundation, the Rector is required, once a year, to hold a Visitation for the purpose of correcting abuses; and this, they seem desirous of construing into a limitation of his authority to that annual Visitation alone.

If

If they persist in opposing the Union, after an express intimation of the Rector's dissent, surely they will not *take upon them* as being the University; they will not come forward to make answer *for* it, nor issue Memorials *as from* that respectable body; they will content themselves with returning to their original designation, *the Principal and six Professors of King's College*; for that alone can suit them; and it is not with the University, but with a few only of its members, that the friends of Union have to contend.

It has pleased these Gentlemen to express a certain acrimonious aversion to be united into one society with us. We feel no such reluctance with regard to them; their present heats we understand to arise from mistakes, and transient interests: a well-regulated Union will oblige us all to exert our best efforts in advancing learning, and the good education of youth: the pleasure of that new situation will dispose us mutually to forget whatever eagerness or contumacy may have suggested during the contest.

After all, what is the real subject at present in dispute? a majority of the two Universities, with the concurrence of many respectable individuals and communities, are desirous to procure an enquiry, in behalf of the public, concerning a matter of considerable importance to this part of the country.

Seven members of one University, without any concurrence, bestir themselves to oppose it. They oppose, not the Union, concerning which, it is possible, that very candid and impartial persons may entertain some doubts, but they oppose simply all enquiry into the expediency of the Union, or the present state of these Universities.

In general it will be allowed, that where enquiries of this nature are called for by any part of the public, the more they are resisted by individuals having interest, the more their necessity becomes evident.

R. E. P. L. Y.

R E P L Y

To a Paper, intituled "*Memorial from the University and King's College of Aberdeen, concerning the Outlines of a Plan for Uniting the King's and Marischal Universities.*"

THE Memorial contains a long complaint of disrespectful and improper conduct on the part of the friends of the Union, in the origin and progress of the business. For a reply to what they have adduced on this head, we refer to a *Defence of the Conduct of the Marischal College, in Relation to the present Scheme of Union, against the Attack made on it by the Principal and six Professors of King's College; in a Letter to a Friend; by a Member of the Marischal College.* At present we are to consider what they have advanced in opposition to the scheme.

The Memorialists affirm, that the advantages set forth by the friends of the Union, are neither so essential, so certain, nor so unallayed, as to warrant that measure; and they also declare that they could not think themselves at liberty to accede to it, for the sake of *any* advantages.

In support of this last declaration, they represent that an Union, upon the intended plan, would run in absolute contradiction to their charters and statutes; that it would frustrate the intentions of their founder and donors, and infringe upon the rights and privileges of their University.

We cannot agree with them in thinking that the original institutions of founders are intitled to so scrupulous a regard as to admit of no alteration, for the sake of *any* advantages; and as they have expressed themselves in so general a manner, we are at liberty to state a case as strong as we please. We may suppose the course of education pointed out by the foundation of an University becomes intirely obsolete and useless, or positively hurtful—that the Professors are required to teach exclusively, the logic of the schools, judicial astrology, or

As it is hoped this will be our last address to the public on the present subject, and may reach many persons who have not seen our former papers, several things contained in these are repeated, to render the present information compleat.

even the Cartesian Philosophy. The case we state is no imaginary one. Systems of pretended science the most chimerical, contentions about unintelligible words, and a superstitious theology, which inculcated tenets subversive of the spirit of Christianity, and degrading to human nature, were long the only objects of study in the Universities, and some of them are not yet entirely exploded. It cannot be seriously affirmed, that such a course should be adhered to in compliance with the injunctions of foundations, or that funds, originally destined to these purposes, would be misapplied, when directed to carry on a liberal and useful system of education.

If it be admitted, that under certain circumstances, alterations of original institutions are justifiable and laudable; we may next inquire for proper principles to ascertain the cases in which alterations may be allowed, and to restrict them within due limits.

When a founder distinctly declares the end he has in view, and afterwards points out the means by which that end may be accomplished; a strict regard is due to the former, and, in order to carry it more effectually into execution, a liberal construction should be applied to the latter.

There are cases in which even the ends of an institution may be entirely set aside; if they should be hurtful to sound religion or morality, or contrary to the public good, they ought to be entirely suppressed, or directed to other purposes. Of this nature were all the alterations in religious establishments at the reformation, among which the Colleges erected before that time are comprehended.

Alterations of this sort, where the original end is abandoned, we think should never be admitted, except for the weightiest reasons. In regard to the means, we maintain that a greater latitude is allowable; and such is the fluctuating course of human affairs, that unless proper alterations be applied from time to time, all ancient establishments would become useless, and burdensome to society. We believe our opponents will find it difficult to produce an instance where the case has been otherwise.

When an institution is intended to *promote education*; to apply the funds to any purpose of a quite different nature, however useful to the public, is to abandon the *end* of the founder;

founder; to alter the regulations, the number and departments of the teachers, or the course of sciences taught, is only to change the *means*, and if the alterations be proper, the end is thereby more effectually promoted.

We know from History, as well as from the tenor of the foundations, that the founders of our Universities were men of liberal views, zealous for promoting piety and useful learning. Bishop Elphinston expresses his sentiments in these words: "*Nos vero cupientes numerum doctorum prædictorum, magistrorum, regentium et Scholarium in prædicta Universitate augeri et ampliari—desiderantes pro modulo gratiæ nobis concessæ, præfatorum doctorum, et studentium vivendi modos, eorundemque studia laudabilia et exercitia, augeri, et augmentari, ac prout divina nobis suppetit gratia, in melius commutari.*"—Like sentiments are expressed in every page of the foundation. In the preamble to the foundation of the Marischal College the founder declares his intention as follows: *Neque hujus nostri instituti alia ratio est quam est aliorum, quibus nihil antiquius, quam de ecclesia et republica quam optime mereri, tum majorum multorum qui idem assidue factitarunt exemplo et vestigiis insistentes, ECCLESIAE ITIDEM, PATRIÆ, ET REIPUBLICÆ ADJUMENTO ET ORNAMENTO ESSE POSSEMUS.*"

To attain these commendable ends, they appointed such means as were suited to the usages and state of learning of the times; and it would be a most hard and illiberal construction, injurious to the memory of our founders, as well as highly detrimental to the public good, to maintain that the original rules should be strictly adhered to, when experience, and the enlarged state of human knowledge, required alterations and improvements.

The opinion of unalterable rules is now generally exploded; the propriety of reasonable innovations is agreeable to the common sense of mankind, and of such innovations in our Universities, introduced by competent authority, we have many instances.

In the royal commission, granted to Buchanan and others, for visiting and reforming the College of St. Andrews in 1579, we have the following words: "His Highness, with the advice of the Lords of Secret Council, ordainit and commandit the masters of the said University, to be

" at

“ at Edinburgh, at a certain day, with the foundations
 “ of their Colleges, to be seen and considerit by any six,
 “ five, or four, of sic able, reverent, and circumspect per-
 “ sons, as his Majesty, with advice of his said Council had
 “ chosen, and committit to them full power to visit and
 “ consider the said foundations of their Colleges, and to
 “ remove all superstition and papistry, to discharge un-
 “ qualified persons, and plant worthy and qualified in
 “ their rooms, to redress the form of study or teaching be-
 “ ma or fewer Professors, to join and to divide the faculties,
 “ and to annex every facultie to sic College as shall be found
 “ to be maist proper, &c. *The auld foundations and erec-*
 “ *tions of the saids Colleges and haill University, or any thing*
 “ *contained therein, notwithstanding.*” The proceedings of
 these commissioners, which changed the whole form of the
 University, were afterwards ratified in Parliament. Similar
 alterations were effected about the same time in the
 University of King’s College at Aberdeen, and in that of
 Glasgow.

At a later period the Professorships of canon law, and, it
 is believed, of music, in the King’s College were suppress-
 ed.

The Colleges at Aberdeen were actually united in one
 University, by a royal charter of Charles I. *anno* 1641,
 which was ratified in Parliament. But as all the acts of
 that and several other parliaments were rescinded at the
 restoration, this Union of consequence became ineffectual.

The late Union of the Colleges of St. Salvator and St.
 Leonard, in St. Andrews, *anno* 1747, is a precedent very
 apposite to the present case. The situation of these two
 Colleges was precisely similar to our own. Two sets of
 Professors were employed in teaching the same branches
 of science. A majority of both Colleges applied for an
 Union, chiefly with a view to augment their salaries, which
 before were very small, and though no new Professorships
 were established, that Union has proved highly beneficial
 to the University. The number of students is now actual-
 ly double of what it used to be previous to the Union.
 That measure was liable to every objection that can be urg-
 ed against the present, and we hope it will appear
 that our proposals are accompanied with advantages

to the public, that were wanting in the plan then adopted.

Repeated attempts have been made to obtain an Union of our Colleges, in 1747, 1754, and 1770. The *expediency* of the measure was the only point on these occasions to which attention was given. The objections so much insisted on at present, were not then even mentioned by the gentlemen who opposed the Union, nor by any others until now, though the subject has been repeatedly agitated among all ranks; and this sufficiently indicates what opinion the public have always entertained of the admissibility of innovation, when directed to useful purposes.

We admit that institutions established by the founder, and long conducted with some utility to the public, ought not to be altered for trivial reasons, nor sported with according to the present and mutable ideas of one set of trustees. But we apprehend there is no risk of improper innovation in any matter of this kind. It is not in the power of the present members to accomplish the Union, or any other material change in the constitution of the University. Nothing less than an act of the legislature can do it, an authority that will never be interposed except for substantial reasons, ascertained by strict examination, and supported by the general sense of the country.

The Union of the Colleges of St. Andrews took place in consequence of a direct application to the legislature. A majority of each College favoured the plan. The same method might have been adopted in the present case, if a like concurrence had been obtained: but an application to parliament under a strong opposition from seven Professors of one of the Colleges would have been premature. The measure of petitioning for a royal visitation has been embraced, as the best expedient for inquiring impartially into the force of the objections advanced, and the reasons or views of both parties, for adjusting a plan of Union, (if that measure in general be approved,) and preparing the business for the final decision of Parliament.

We have already acknowledged that this application for a visitation has not been a matter of choice. We wished

to attain the end in view by more easy and expeditious means, but as our opponents refused all treaty, we were reduced to the alternative of embracing that expedient, or of relinquishing altogether, a plan that had been eagerly solicited and warmly patronized by the public for many years. Our opponents entertain a very imperfect and erroneous notion of the power of visitors. Many instances might be adduced, and some have been already mentioned, where their authority was exerted to different purposes, and productive of more essential alterations, than those enumerated in their Memorial. It is unnecessary however to discuss the power of visitors minutely on this occasion, nor does it belong to us to define the limits of royal prerogative in this or any other matter.

Some misapprehension may have taken place, as if it had been intended to carry the scheme of Union into execution, by the authority of visitors alone. We never entertained any such design, nor do we know that their authority is competent for that purpose. If an appointment takes place in conformity to the tenor of our petition, their business will be only to enquire and report, and surely these functions are not beyond their power.

It is groundless therefore, as well as indecent, to suppose that they will, if appointed, proceed with *a high hand*, by *pure authority*, and *without law*, to *annul foundations and statutes, contrary to justice and public utility*. The apprehension the Memorialists entertain of a very considerable expence being brought upon a College by a visitation must be founded on a mistake of the same kind. The expence occasioned by the last visitation, in 1716 was very inconsiderable, and was owing to the business being then transacted at Edinburgh.

If in compliance with our petition, visitors are appointed, if they recommend an Union as beneficial, and adjust a plan for accomplishing it; that plan will be brought into Parliament, together with any objections our opponents chuse to adduce; both will there receive a final discussion, and that which is best for the public will be established.

It does not admit of a doubt, that the legislature is invested with power to render the Union effectual, and we apprehend it is equally clear, that such a power may be

exerted, if the utility of the measure be manifest. Nor can we imagine, that in these times, and in the present reign, it will not be exerted with moderation and wisdom, so as to promote the interests of learning, and education, without any injury to the rights of individuals, or to the useful privileges of any society or ancient institution.

If we consult experience, it will appear, that so far from improper or premature alterations being introduced into Universities, thro' a wanton spirit of innovation, the opposite extreme has universally prevailed. An attachment to old rules and customs is a principle of powerful and general influence. These rules and customs have the advantage of present and long possession, and are not easily overturned. Improvements of undoubted utility have often been long postponed, after the circumstances of the times required them, and in some instances altogether neglected. Every person acquainted with the constitution of any University abroad or at home, must be sensible of the truth of this remark; and many of ourselves remember, since almost a whole session of the College was spent in teaching the obsolete logic of Aristotle: and a considerable part of another, in discussing futile and absurd questions in natural philosophy.

We beg leave to quote the sentiments of a gentleman, whose enlarged understanding, and extensive information, in consequence of a long residence abroad, render his authority particularly respectable.

After describing the course of academical studies, consisting of logic, the cobweb science of ontology, pneumatology, a debased system of moral philosophy, and a short and superficial system of physics, he goes on in these words.

“ This course of Philosophy still continues to be taught
 “ in the greater part of the Universities of Europe. In
 “ some of the richest and best endowed Universities, the
 “ tutors content themselves with teaching a few unconnect-
 “ ed shreds and parcels of this corrupted course; and even
 “ these they commonly teach very negligently and su-
 “ perficially.

“ The improvements which in modern times have
 “ been made in the several branches of Philosophy, have
 “ not for the greater part been made in Universities, tho'
 “ some no doubt have. The greater part of Universities
 have

" have not even been very forward to adopt these improvements after they were made, and several of these learned societies have chosen to remain for a long time the sanctuaries, in which exploded systems and obsolete prejudices found shelter and protection, after they had been hunted out of every other corner of the world."*

We maintain, that establishments of a public nature, and for purposes of public utility, may be altered and improved, while the intention of the Founders is observed, by authority of the legislature, in order to render them more extensively useful; that such changes have been frequently made, tho' seldom so soon, or so extensively as they ought; and that the proposed Plan of Union does not overturn or pervert the foundation of the King's College, or introduce such material innovations as have taken place in that and other Universities on former occasions; and for purposes of a more equivocal tendency.

It is not proposed to suppress any branch of education at present taught, to apply any part of the revenue to purposes foreign to the intention of the founders, to alienate the buildings, or permit any monuments of their generous munificence to fall into oblivion. If in consequence of a proper distribution of offices in the united University, a few of the present Professorships should become unnecessary, we hold it to be no violation of the foundation, to assign their revenues to a common stock, for public uses, in which the members on the foundation of the King's College, would always have a proportional interest with the other.

Our opponents urge the obligation of their oaths to support their foundation. Reasons of this nature well deserve a serious attention; on this occasion we apprehend they admit of a satisfactory answer from the considerations already adduced. We hold in detestation the practice of evading the obvious meaning of an oath by forced constructions on the words, but we think it no unwarrantable liberty, especially when an oath has been framed near three centuries ago, to apply a liberal construction to the words, for the purpose of forwarding the prosperity of the foundation. The constitution of the

* Dr. Smith on the Wealth of Nations, Book v. chap. i.

King's College is not violated by the proposed Union, it's privileges are not invaded, and if the present members believe that the University would flourish in consequence of an Union, we think they are bound by a clause of their oath "*commodum et utilitatem ejusdem juxta posse suum procurare*" to promote it.

There cannot be the slightest presumption, that the Union is contrary to the sentiments of the earlier founder, or that he would not, with pleasure, have embraced the plan of connecting his own establishment with another of a similar nature, in order to carry on the truly patriotic purposes for which both were founded, in a more effectual manner, than could be done in their separate state. It appears from the extract above quoted, that his particular object was the progressive improvement of a former establishment, to increase the numbers of masters and students, and to give greater efficacy to their laudable studies and exercises. Boetius who had been intrusted with the execution of his plan, informs us, that his purpose was to provide for the youth of the northern parts, the same opportunities of study, which had been at the same time provided in other Universities, for those of the south and western districts of Scotland. This is the very idea, which the friends of the Union have adopted in the present times, though announced to the public before we were aware of a coincidence, which we were happy to recognize. The liberality of the Prelate is by no means tainted with the appearance of vanity, or anxiety to secure the peculiar honours of a founder. His College is not to be called by his name, but by that of the Virgin Mary, and, tho' he directs that two bursaries shall be given to young men of the name of Elphinston, he leaves that in a great measure to the discretion of the faculty, by adding *Si commode haberi poterint*.

Are not the intentions of the founders of the United College at St. Andrews better fulfilled by the maintaining of one flourishing University, than if both the separate Colleges had been suffered to fall into decay, for the want of support which followed from their Union?

We hope when the Memorialists allow an impartial weight to these considerations, and listen to the public opinion, by which any measure that tended towards per-

jury

jury would be treated with the detestation it deserved, they will find themselves at freedom to concur in a measure so loudly demanded by the public.

After all, if a particular set of Trustees on a public establishment, should, from a mistaken sense of an oath, refuse to agree to a measure, in which the interest of the public was at stake, tho' it would be wrong to require their concurrence till their mistake was removed, it would not be wrong to carry the desired measure, by competent authority, into execution without it.

Whatever may be said of the intention of the latter founder, by whom no oath is required, we reckon ourselves at perfect liberty to propose to the consideration of the legislature, a scheme, by which we think his main design will be better fulfilled, upon the principles already laid down.

WE are next to consider whether the Union can take place without any detriment to the rights of the present members of King's College, in point of income, patronage, or otherwise. To these a strict regard is due, and it is our desire, that they may remain as much untouched as our own. Our opponents undoubtedly have a right to "all augmentations to which they would have been entitled if no Union had taken place." In the outlines, this right is preserved to them by the fifth and sixth articles, which we think sufficiently perspicuous, and we believe have not been misunderstood by any other person. But to prevent all doubts and mistakes, we now explicitly declare, that we understand them in the same extent, as the words above quoted from their Memorial signify; and we do not expect or desire any share in the patronage of offices belonging to the King's College, during the lives of the present members, or afterwards, farther than the legislature may think fit, for the harmony and prosperity of the United Society; and perhaps no such participation is necessary for that end. It is intended that the expence of institutions, for the public purposes of the University, should be chiefly defrayed, from the salaries of the few offices that may be suppressed. It is by no means proposed, that any Professor should be deprived of his house, or manse, or obliged to quite his place of residence, whatever

ever may be required of his successor. The present incumbent shall be at liberty to reside and teach where he pleases. And tho' all sinecure offices are meant to be abolished as soon as possible, yet those Professors, who have prescription in their favour, for holding their places as sinecures, are to be allowed to hold them as such for life, if they incline. What injury then, can the present incumbents sustain? They are to enjoy every augmentation of salary, that can arise from their present funds, and the management of these funds is left in their own hands; they have the prospect of increasing their emoluments by fuller classes, as the scheme takes effect, and these Professors, who do not receive fees from their students, have the expectation of an augmentation of salary from the general funds, an advantage which in the present state of the Colleges they could never look for. Our opponents are pleased to term this prospect of augmentation, a *mockery*. It would not be difficult, nor are we unwilling to secure it by a permanent regulation, in proportion to the state of the funds, and if any thing, not yet proposed, be judged necessary to secure the present incumbents in every right, we shall cheerfully admit it.

We utterly deny, that the Professors of either College, are possessors of any right extending beyond their own lives, or invested with any trust, that can bar improvements, upon their respective institutions. Our sentiments on this subject are well expressed, in a letter addressed to the public by a friend of the Union "The members of any University are only tenants for life, in endowments for public utility, which therefore are not their freehold. I hold the University itself to be the property of the public, and that they have a right to model it, so as to answer the main design of the institution, and general utility."

It is hinted, that other Patrons may be dissatisfied. This observation might have been spared, as it is only competent to be adduced by these Patrons, and one person to whom it applies, has declared so warmly in favour of an Union, that we expect much assistance from him in our endeavours to accomplish it, see Appendix, No. V. Art. 7.

Our

Our opponents insist much upon the superiority of their revenue and extent of their patronage, and are pleased to compare our attempt, to that of a person, who should insist with his richer neighbour, that their estates should be thrown into one, and equally divided between them. Admitting the fact, we cannot perceive the aptness of the comparison, or the force of the argument derived from it. The injury done to the richer neighbour, if the proposal be enforced, is obvious; but who is injured by carrying the Union into execution? not the present Professors, whose rights and emoluments are preserved in as full a manner as they can desire; not their successors, whose situation will undoubtedly derive benefit from the Union. The sum of the salaries, in proportion to the number of masters, will be equal to what the present funds afford, and to all augmentations arising from their improvement. If an equalizing measure ever take place, it must be at a distant period, and the present incumbents, in the poorer College, can expect little benefit from it. But the fact of superiority, in the salaries of the King's College, is exaggerated in their Memorial, and a true abstract for the last five years will be found in the Appendix, No. VI. The funds of the Marischal College have improved more rapidly of late years, and it is believed, that by reason of the vicinity of their lands to the town, they are more susceptible of farther improvement. When these considerations are attended to, there is little ground to suspect, that the friends of the Union are impelled to prosecute that scheme, by coveting the more affluent revenues of the other College.

So far, in reply to the reasons adduced by our opponents, for refusing to agree to an Union, whatever advantages might attend it. We have shewn that it is not effectually barred by the foundation, that it does not infringe on the rights of the present incumbents or their successors, of patrons or any others. The advantages expected from an Union come next to be considered.

THE great object of the Union is to render the course of academical education more compleat, by establishing Professorships in such branches of science, as are now wanting in both Colleges, are acknowledged to be of great utility, and have been long desired by the public.

There are at present in each College, a Principal, a Professor of Theology, of Oriental Languages, of the Greek Language, and three Professors of Philosophy; also a Professor of Humanity in King's College, and a Professor of Mathematics in Marischal College. The other establishments are a professor of Civil Law in King's College, and Professors of Medicine in both; which last offices (with an exception after-mentioned) have been held as sinecures for many years.

By means of this arrangement, the same elements of philosophy, and of the Greek language, are taught at each College, and often to very thin Classes, by two separate sets of Professors. It is therefore proposed, that one set of these Professorships, together with one of the offices of Principal, should be suppressed, and in their place, effective Schools of Law, and the different branches of Medicine, established. Other Classes may be added. such as shall appear to be most useful, and as many as the funds of the College are able to afford. Of this number might be reckoned a Professorship of Astronomy, for which the excellent apparatus, already in our possession, affords particular encouragement.

To evince the utility of this measure, it might be sufficient to mention, that for want of such establishments at home, young men from all parts of the North of Scotland, who are intended for any of the liberal professions, are at present under the necessity of going to Edinburgh, or some other distant University, where they are far removed from the inspection of their parents and friends, where the expence of residence is greatly higher †, and where, being under no controul, they have stronger temptations to idleness and dissipation. Such indeed is the expence

† The expence of board and lodging for students at our Colleges seldom exceeds 20l. or 25l. whereas at Edinburgh and Glasgow, they often pay from 40l to 100l a year.

incurred at those Universities, that very few of the lower rank, in this, not the most opulent part of the kingdom, are able to afford it; and the consequence has been, that many are thereby prevented from embracing employments for which their genius eminently qualified them, while others, more adventurous, have engaged in business under all the disadvantages of a very slender and unsuitable education. Instances have frequently occurred, of young men from this place, settling as surgeons in America and the West Indies, or being appointed mates in the army or navy, without having attended any Anatomical or other Medical Class whatever, and with no other instruction, than what could be gleaned from observing a little hospital practice, and from reading a few books, during a short apprenticeship.

It may be farther observed, that upon considering the comparative utility of the branches of education already taught, and of those intended to be introduced, the latter seem even entitled to a more particular regard. Most of the Classes at present are attended chiefly by very young boys, who are often sent to College, before their genius for learning can well be known, and almost always before their future employment in life has been determined. In consequence of this practice, any academical education must prove absolutely useless to a very great proportion of them, and in the opinion of some, perhaps even hurtful. Many fail, thro' defect of capacity or diligence, and others, who had, when at College, made considerable progress in their studies, soon forget almost all they had learnt, in the prosecution of employments of a very different kind. This is an error, which no abilities in the master, no wisdom in the rules, and no attention to discipline, can correct; but it is only in the earlier and initiatory branches of education that it prevails. Students of Medicine, and of Law, have already resolved to follow these professions; their capacity for them is in some measure known; their judgment is more mature: and the early prospect they entertain of applying any knowledge they may acquire, to their own advantage, is a very powerful incitement to diligence. For these reasons, it will always be found, that students make a far greater proficiency, in the more advanced, than in the earlier stages of their education. Is it then for the

public advantage, that our academical course should be confined to those departments, from which many students can derive little benefit? Is it not expedient that it should also be extended to others, which are found to be at least equally useful, and perhaps attended with a greater certainty of success?

Nor is the enlarging and improving our system of education, tho' of the first consequence, the only advantage that would result from such an Union. Many others might be suggested, particularly the saving of a very considerable sum to this country, which is annually expended elsewhere, for the support and education of our youth. Much of the money which is now sent to other places, would circulate at home among ourselves. It might be expected, that a greater number of foreign students, and even of families from distant parts of the country, would resort here on account of the cheapness of living, and thereby promote, together with their own, the general advantage of the place. Many would also be induced to remain longer at College, from the increased number of Classes, and not rest satisfied with the superficial and merely elementary education, which they receive during the first years of their attendance. The annual sum expended in Edinburgh by the students of that University, according to the most moderate computation, amounts to 60,000*l*. Of how much service to this place, the circulation of a much smaller sum would prove, especially from the manner in which it would be chiefly employed, is a point that requires no illustration.

Neither, in enumerating the advantages of this scheme, ought we to omit mentioning the opportunity of improvement, which gentlemen not attached to any particular profession, would enjoy from an attendance on those Classes that are proposed to be established. Many such are observed to frequent repeated courses of Lectures in other Universities, being sensible that the pursuits of science are peculiarly useful and ornamental to them, and can alone bestow that enlarged understanding, and cultivated taste, which of all others is perhaps their most honourable distinction. Is it not likewise to be wished that the young men who are bred to the Church in this country, should have the advantage of improving their minds, by attend-
ing

ing such Classes of Medicine or law, as they may think proper? This opportunity is often embraced by the more ingenious students of Divinity at Edinburgh and Glasgow, whereas here they cannot enjoy it; and many who would profit by such liberal education, and are desirous of it, cannot afford the expence of resorting to these Universities. A few have possessed such advantages, and know their value, while many who are already advanced in life, find reason to regret, that some part of their youth could not have been employed in cultivating a general acquaintance with these sciences.

It may perhaps also deserve notice, that from uniting the libraries, museums, and apparatus for teaching Natural Philosophy and Mathematics, considerable advantages might be derived both to the students and the University. At present, the necessary books and instruments (if purchased at all) must be separately purchased by each College, which is a very useless expenditure of public money. Should the Union take effect, a considerable sum might be obtained, by disposing of those books and instruments of which there are duplicates, and applied to the purchasing of others, equally necessary, that may be wanting in both.

BUT we need not insist much on this part of the subject, as our opponents neither deny nor depreciate the advantages, that would result from the effectual establishment of the branches of education proposed to be introduced—They only urge the improbability of their success.

In answer to suggestions of this sort, we adduce the example of Glasgow, where Schools of Law and Medicine have been long successfully taught, notwithstanding the vicinity of that place to Edinburgh *, and the expence of living being much greater than here—Neither does it possess the advantage of any Infirmary for the students of Medicine, nor so many courts for those studying Law. It does not

* The University of Glasgow is only forty-four miles distant from Edinburgh, and that of St. Andrews still nearer. This place is above one hundred miles from Edinburgh, and eighty from St. Andrews; and more than one half of Scotland is nearer in local situation to Aberdeen than to any other University. See Appendix, No. V. Art. 9.

educate a greater number of young men to the former of these professions, nor so many to the latter.

But in addition to the argument drawn from the example of Glasgow, we are now authorised to offer another, which we think ought alone to be decisive on this head. The Physicians and Lawyers of this place, may be esteemed the best judges of the probable success of Classes, in their respective departments. Both these Societies having taken the matter into consideration, have favoured us with their public, unanimous, and decided opinion, that such Classes would be highly beneficial to the country, and, if properly established, would be attended with success. See Appendix, Nos. III, IV.

Our opponents mention the failure of a former attempt to teach Medicine here by the late Drs. Gregory and Skene—The Physicians inform us, that they remember well, that their ill success was owing to some temporary circumstances, which are now entirely removed—Our opponents therefore cannot justly allege, that the want of success was then owing to the irregular attendance of the gentlemen who opened those Classes, in consequence of extensive private practice; (Memorial p. 7.) nor is there reason to imagine, that this circumstance would have the effect to obstruct such a scheme in the north of Scotland, more than any where else. Besides, it was not then conducted upon a plan sufficiently extensive, only two Classes being opened, without any proper support from the Universities, or the public, and without any certain expectation of their continuance—This could offer no powerful inducement for students to attend them; for it is only from a systematic and permanent establishment of such Classes, in the United University, that we can hope for success—Nor can this great object be attained in any other way than by an Union—The other projects held forth to the public by our opponents, particularly the superadding Medical Classes to the present establishments, or converting one entirely into a College for Medicine, were surely not intended for serious consideration (Memorial p. 8.) and we shall therefore take no further notice of them. We shall only observe, that at present the students of each College are accustomed to look on themselves as totally unconnected with one another, and very little intercourse, of an amicable kind, has
ever

ever been known to subsist between them. A natural attachment to that College where they have first entered, joined to a certain point of honour, generally prevents their leaving it, or their attending at the same time any new Classes that are opened in the other College.—Such conduct would be accounted academical desertion, and has not very frequently been known to take place.

Another unfavourable circumstance mentioned by the gentlemen in opposition, (Memorial p. 7) is an attempt to introduce a Class of Botany some years since, which also proved unsuccessful. To this it may be sufficient to answer, that independently of the argument above stated against the success of single Classes, no course of this kind can well be taught or attended, where a proper Botanic Garden is wanting, which was then and still is the case here.—It may however be remarked, that a Lectureship in Chemistry lately established in the Marischal College, has had better success; and that a popular course of Natural Philosophy also taught there, calculated chiefly for the instruction of artists, and those who have not had a liberal education, has been likewise warmly patronized by the public.

In regard to Law Classes, besides the number of young men educated to that profession, which is very considerable, attendance might also be expected, from gentlemen, whose situation in life renders an acquaintance with this subject, becoming, and even necessary. The part they have often to act as arbiters of differences, as justices of the peace, commissioners of supply, and on other public occasions, and even in the management of their private affairs, strongly evinces the propriety of their applying to this study. Our opponents, from the obvious example of Glasgow, are forced to admit the probability of such an establishment being successful, but they very properly add (Memorial p. 7.) that this will only be the case, where the Law professor exerts himself as he ought. To stimulate such exertions in the best manner possible, will no doubt be properly attended to, if the desired Union take effect; for we entertain no hope of any Class succeeding here or elsewhere, if the Professor is negligent in the discharge of his duty.

We farther urge, that the importance of education is better understood now than formerly, that parents are

more eager to have their children properly qualified for such employments as they may be inclined to follow, and that our young men are more solicitous to improve by every opportunity they enjoy. This is the natural effect of the gradual extension and increase of science, which has nowhere been more conspicuous of late, than in this very country, where education always has been, and we hope will ever be, within the reach of the poorest of our northern youth. That it should be so, we account one special object of our respective foundations, and though perhaps not bound by express injunctions to that purpose, we understand the virtual obligation to be very strong.

IT is likewise argued, that the proposed establishments cannot possibly take place for a long time. We on the contrary are of opinion, that they may in a great measure be carried into execution very soon; for we entertain little doubt, but persons properly qualified, may just now be found, willing to undertake most of the necessary departments, without any other emolument than the fees of the classes, till they can be provided with suitable salaries. Among others, one of the Professors of Marischal College, a physician of standing and character, has offered to exchange his present office, for a branch in the medical department. The physicians of the Infirmary have already advertised a course of Clinical Lectures; a Class of Chemistry has been carried on for some years; an Anatomical Theatre may likewise be provided; and, if our endeavours shall be found to merit further assistance, we have the strongest assurances, that the same public and private bounty, which has enriched one library and museum, furnished an observatory with magnificent instruments, and provided a very valuable apparatus for teaching Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, will not be wanting to assist us in the establishment of a Botanical Garden. By these means, and the exertions of the present Professors of Medicine, or others in their stead, the institution of a Medical School may be immediately, vigorously, and, we trust, successfully undertaken. The Law School admits of no difficulty.

But our opponents, before they can agree to an Union, require a *certainly* of its answering the purposes for which it is intended. This we acknowledge we cannot give,
nor

nor from the nature of all human undertakings, is it to be expected in similar attempts. Were this to be required, no alteration could ever be made, in any establishment already formed; from the dread of merely possible contingencies, every generous exertion would be checked, and the natural progress of an enlightened age towards farther improvement, would be totally suspended. That reasoning is therefore manifestly false, which leads to such absurd consequences. In favour of the success of our plan, we can offer every proof that is usually expected in like cases; and we hope enough has already been said to convince every unprejudiced person, that there is such a fair probability of its being attended with the advantages we hold forth, as sufficiently authorises the experiment. The peculiar circumstances of our situation, and the spirit of the times, are entirely in its favour; nor do the obstacles represented by the Memorialists, appear to us, or to others, either insurmountable, or even formidable.

We are farther confirmed in our hopes, by the favourable reception our plan has received from the public. By persons of the most distinguished rank in the north of Scotland, it has been honoured with an almost unanimous approbation; nor have the arguments adduced by our opponents, in the smallest degree changed those favourable sentiments; for various similar communications have been received, since their Memorial was in circulation. Nor can we consider the opinion of persons of their extensive information, in the light represented in the Memorial. (Mem. p. 6) On the contrary, we think them entitled to the highest degree of respect, especially in a matter which does not relate to the detail of education, but to the general constitution of our Universities. Their interest is very materially concerned in the success of such institutions, and in the present question, high rank cannot possibly produce any prejudice or bias to either side. The senators of the College of Justice, will surely be acknowledged most unexceptionable judges, in a matter of this kind; and those members of that respectable body, who are connected with this part of the country, who have received their education at these Universities, and are well acquainted with the state of both, particularly King's College (having acted as counsel and arbitrators in the disputes of that society) have

have given their explicit approbation of the proposed Union.

At the same time we acknowledge, that if our scheme were countenanced by persons of high rank alone, our opponents would have a specious argument to allege against it; but this is far from being the case. Though it would have been impracticable to have collected the sentiments of so many individuals, we have sufficient authority to affirm, that it is generally and warmly patronized by the public of all ranks, by the private gentry, the clergy, the merchants, and the richer farmers, whom the Memorialists justly represent, as "not incompetent judges of its utility," but who, they add, "have on all occasions very generally disapproved of an Union, as to them *disadvantageous*." (Memorial, p. 6.) To this we need scarcely answer, because we believe these classes of people are abundantly sensible of it, that they of all others are the persons to whom the Union we propose, would prove *most highly beneficial*. Such of them as have felt the expence of a medical or other education for their children, at distant places, will be at no loss to perceive the advantages attending it, while they have to regret that it has been so late in being accomplished. These at least are, and have uniformly been, the unanimous sentiments of the Magistrates and Council, of the incorporated trades, and of other public societies of this city; and these are also the sentiments of every other burgh and corporation which has yet declared an opinion; particularly of Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, whose early approbation, though at such a distance, is highly flattering, and affords us the greatest encouragement to hope for success. (Appendix, Nos. I, II. &c.) Nor may it be deemed improper to remark, that even in the society of King's College, who alone oppose the Union, besides the zealous concurrence of two members, and the avowed approbation of a third very respectable Professor, we have permission to say, that the Rector openly favours the measure, and that *all* his assessors are not of a contrary opinion. These gentlemen having been elected by their society, since the present contest was begun, and where the opponents of our measures had a decided majority, we think nothing can more strongly indicate the general sense of the country, than their being nominated under these circumstances,

circumstances, and maintaining this opinion. Nor can it be imagined, which we are sorry to find insinuated, that any of the approbations with which we have been honoured, either by public societies or individuals, could have been obtained by surprise, or were not the result of mature consideration of the subject. A matter that had been agitated almost without intermission for above forty years, must have so frequently been the subject of conversation, and engaged the attention of every person interested in it, that their opinion must have been already formed, and any attempt to take them by surprise, impracticable. But besides the additional testimonies of approbation, and the increasing ardour of the public to see the Union accomplished, even since the publication of so many papers by the other party, we flatter ourselves, that the subjoined extracts will fully vindicate us from this accusation. (Appendix, No. V.)

Since the first part of this paper was sent to the press, we have been not a little surprised to find suggested by our opponents, in the Aberdeen Journal of October 9th, that "they cannot doubt, the Synod of Aberdeen will see reason to discountenance any application made without their knowledge, for fixing a plan of Union," &c. being Patrons of the Professorship of Divinity in King's College. To this we need only reply, that there had been no opportunity of laying the plan before them since it was published, but that it had been circulated thro' the different Presbyteries for their consideration, together with a more particular address to the Clergy on the same subject, and we have the greatest reason to believe that they are inclined to favour it. For we cannot conceive that the sentiments of the Clergy will be biased by frivolous considerations, against a scheme manifestly tending to promote learning in general, and particularly such new branches of it, as many of them may find both necessary and agreeable to cultivate. It certainly can never injure their rights as Patrons and Visitors of that office. We wish by it, on the contrary, to extend their power of Visitation further, and we hold out besides, no visionary prospect of increasing the value of their Professorship.

IT only now remains, to consider some other objections

to our scheme, which we hope it will not be found difficult to remove.

It is said (Memorial p. 6.) that in numerous Classes, it must be impossible for the master, to bestow the same attention upon the students, or to examine them so frequently and minutely. We reply, that it is in the power of any diligent Professor, to do ample justice to Classes, at least as numerous, as may probably be convened in consequence of the Union. At present, a Class of forty being reckoned a very full one, perhaps a Class of eighty may be expected, when the Colleges are united. Now it is well known, that in some of our other Universities, and even Grammar Schools, particularly at Edinburgh, a far greater number of the youngest boys, amounting to 100 or 150, are taught in one Class, with reputation and success. It may indeed happen, that in consequence of the increased reputation of the United University, the number of students shall become considerably greater than presently attends both; but this, if it should be the case, would be the effect of such complete success, as must be decisive in our favour. We may likewise observe farther, that in any Class, not exceeding the number we have mentioned, the examinations are sufficiently frequent, to discover the progress of each student to his master and fellow students, to allow room for emulation among them, and to enable the teacher to judge of the success of the method he has adopted, which are the most essential purposes of examination. These are besides so ordered, that no student previously knows, at what hour he may be called on, yet all have equally their turns, tho' not in regular rotation. Sometimes a few are examined fully and minutely, at other times a larger number more briefly, so that none can have encouragement to idleness, from the hope of being overlooked. A diligent Professor, will likewise cheerfully bestow more time in examining, where the Class is numerous, without deducting any from the other parts of his duty; and the benefit that he derives from such Classes, will afford an additional inducement for him to do so.

Having thus fairly stated, and it is hoped fully answered, the chief objections to numerous Classes, it may now be proper to mention some of the advantages attending them. In a thin Class, there are often not more than two or three students, who discover any considerable

genius,

genius, so that here there is little room for emulation to operate. In a numerous Class, a greater proportion of able and ingenious students may be expected, from whose diligence, proficiency, and mutual communications, considerable benefit may result to the whole. It may also deserve notice in this place, that the establishing of societies among the elder students, where the various objects of their studies are freely discussed, has proved highly useful in other Universities, and some of them have acquired a considerable degree of reputation. Nothing of this kind has been attempted here, unless in the Branch of Divinity, and for these obvious reasons, that the students have no inducement to remain long enough at the University, to render it an object worthy of attention, nor is there a sufficient number properly qualified, for conducting such societies in a manner that would answer the end. We may here also remark, that in the department of Greek Literature, the teaching of a higher Class, in which the students might make a farther progress in the study of the language, classics, and antiquities of that people, has been repeatedly attempted here, by the present and former Professors, with little or no success. If the elementary Class were numerous, there could be no doubt of a higher one finding the same encouragement as in other Universities; and this observation may apply to some other departments. On this subject, another argument has been furnished to us by our opponents, who with propriety observe (Mem. p. 10.) that persons suitably qualified, will not always be found to accept of an office in our Colleges, unless the emoluments are sufficient to afford them a decent living. Now, by the numerous Classes which an active Professor might expect to convene, in consequence of an Union, the present value of the office, would receive a considerable augmentation; but as this would always bear proportion to his industry and merit, we think it might be attended with more beneficial consequences, both to the public, and to the society, than any augmentation of salaries. Such an increase of emolument, we consider as a just and solid compensation to any Professor, whose exertions shall be found to deserve it: nor do we imagine that we "mock them" either by this suggestion, or by the proposal of augmenting the salaries of the few Professors who

who can derive no advantage from their Classes, as shall be afterwards more particularly shewn. To conclude this subject, if upon a comparison of the arguments in favour of large and small Classes, the former be thought to preponderate, it follows, that the proposed Union would be beneficial to the system of education already established, independently of the advantages to be expected from the introduction of new Classes: and it deserves notice, that if any thing remains in the opposite scale, it only regards a description of students, who, after all the exertions of the ablest teachers, often derive no lasting or important advantage from their instructions.

But the memorialists farther object (Memorial p. 6.) that emulation among the masters, in the present separate state of the Colleges, is an useful stimulus to promote their diligence. Were this the case, our seminaries, which alone possess such a singular advantage, ought to surpass in number of students, and in reputation, all the other Universities in Scotland — Yet, if the fact be otherwise, notwithstanding this rivalry, and the other peculiar circumstances of cheapness of living, and a far more extensive country around us, may there not appear some reason for drawing a conclusion directly contrary; for maintaining that our rivalry has done us more harm than service, and that it is only by an Union we can ever reap the full benefit of the local advantages we enjoy? We trust however that no incitement of this kind is necessary to call forth the exertions of the present Professors, and we can as little imagine, that our successors will at any time be so insensible to every principle of honour and duty, to every regard for the sciences which they profess to love, and to the desire natural to mankind of imparting their knowledge to others, as either to require or to feel the influence of a principle so ignoble, and so unbecoming their character as scholars or as gentlemen. But let us suppose the worst. If after an Union has taken place, this University should at any future time be disgraced by a set of Professors, upon whom no motives but of the most sordid kind could operate, the greater part of their income being to arise from the fees of their students, will always, be in proportion to their reputation and diligence. Now it is well known, that the students from whom they derive the greatest benefit,

nefit, are fons of gentlemen of fome rank and fortune. Thefe will be fent to other Universities, if the character of our own be not fupported, and even among the lower ranks, a negligent mafter will find few ftudents: in many branches, private teachers would interfere. It cannot then be fupposed, that his falary, unlefs highly augmented (a meafure we cannot approve) together with the fees he might receive from a few ftudents, and thofe of the lower rank, who continued to attend his Clafs, merely in order to pafs thro' the forms of education, would provide him in fuch an ample revenue, as to leave no defire of increafing it, by a diligent difcharge of his duty.

Again, it is objected by writers againft the Union, that if the Colleges were united, fees may be raifed (Memorial, p. 10.) longer feflions introduced, attendance upon a greater number of Clafles required, and other inconvenient or oppreffive regulations eftablifhed, which their rivalfhip at prefent prevents. Now thefe are all merely poffible events, nor is there any greater danger of improper rules being introduced into the conftitution of the United College; than there are among us at prefent, or in any of the other Scots Universities, which are at leaft as flourifhing as ours. But were we inclined to make all thefe innovations, which we never dreamed of; we could do nothing more than propofe them for the confideration of the legiflature, which alone is competent to authorize them; and where every argument on the oppofite fide, would be as readily received, and as impartially examined, as thofe offered by us. We admit however in the full eft manner, the propriety of effectual regulations to prevent all thefe abufes, and entertain no doubt that fuch may be eftablifhed, as fhall be fully adequate to that purpofe. We fhall briefly propofe what has occurred to us on this fubject, and will moft chearfully acquiefce in any farther regulations, which the public fhall judge expedient.

To limit the fees unalterably to their prefent, or even to a higher rate, would be manifefly abfurd, from the obvious confideration of the difference of the value of money; but they may be regulated by a ftandard, which will keep pace with that value, and the increafing opulence of the country. On this occafion however, we believe none of us entertain any idea of the neceffity of raifing them, yet

that the objection may be effectually obviated, we have declared our willingness, to leave the regulation of fees to the sole and perpetual determination of the Synod of Aberdeen, a body of men, with whom we are confident such a power may be safely intrusted, both by the public and by us. We shall only beg leave to add, that the danger of the fees being raised, appears thus to be much greater in the present separate state of the Colleges, who are under no such controul, than in the event of their being united; for however they may differ as to other points, there is no improbability of their being *again* unanimous, in a matter so much for their common advantage.

In regard to an attendance upon a greater number of Classes being required, there is fully as little reason for suggesting or entertaining any apprehensions. No attendance upon any fixed course of Classes, can well be exacted, unless from bursars, and as the bursaries are limited by their foundations, to continue only four years, no longer attendance can be required from those who hold them. As to prolonging the duration of the session of College, to the term prescribed in the other Universities, we are equally willing to submit the propriety of such a measure to the determination of the proper judges, and to their decision we shall in this, as in other matters, cheerfully accede. For if the Union take place, a system of regulations will be enacted by the authority of the legislature, and previously thereto, every person or party interested in the measure, will have an opportunity of suggesting, what they may think most conducive to the public good. And in order to prevent such regulations from falling into disuse, and to authorise such alterations, as experience may shew to be requisite for promoting the prosperity of the University, it may be necessary, that a standing power be lodged in the hands of such ordinary Visitors, as the wisdom of the legislature shall approve. These will most naturally be persons of different ranks and holding public offices in the community, and among such, we are persuaded that the just claim of the Clergy will not be overlooked.

Some other objections urged by the Memorialists might have been spared upon this occasion, as they regard the detail, and not the general expediency of the measure. The proper time for discussing these will be, when matters

are

are ripe for adjusting the particular regulations. The plan published by us, is declared merely an Outline, to be afterwards filled up, corrected, and improved; and whatever parts of it, shall be deemed improper, may be altered, or set aside altogether. It is wrong in our opponents to censure it as not being sufficiently explicit, while at the same time, they take the liberty to supply what is wanting with their own conjectures, adapting these conjectures to their own purposes, and reasoning from them, as if they were really our sentiments and intentions. We, on the contrary, thought it more respectful to the public, as well as to them, to express our views in a general manner, and to request their assistance in rendering the plan compleat. It was for this reason, that we did not presume to specify the particular Professions to be retained, or added, but contented ourselves with naming only the number that appeared to us sufficient. It was for this reason also that we forbore to mention more particularly, the distribution of the several Classes, than merely to say, that one half of them should be taught in each College, and that the distribution should be regulated by convenience, and the interests of good education. Yet this they explain in such a manner, as to render it a considerable and popular objection to the whole scheme; and taking it for granted, that the distribution would be the same, as was agreed to by them in the year 1770, they observe (Mem. p. 9.), "that by this scheme, of all the members founded by Bishop Elphinston, only the Principal, who teaches no Class, and the professor of Laws, who has never been able to find a Class, are left in his College." They afterwards express their "surprise, that they did not then perceive, that this was truly to annihilate that College, to leave it but in name, and for the sake of that name to support expensive buildings &c." To this it has been already answered, that no Professor resident in that College, should be desired to remove elsewhere, or undertake any duty he did not at present perform, but during his own pleasure; and we are of opinion, that by *one half* of the Classes being taught in Bishop Elphinston's College, and by its being made the seat of the United University, where all public ceremonies were to be performed, the Principal and *one half* of the Professors might be expected to reside

there (being a greater number than at present), and that this College would thereby, both *in name* and in reality, derive additional dignity from such a distribution. Nor can it be imagined, that in the seat of the University, where there would be so many *resident and teaching* Professors, the number of students residing there also, would not be very considerable. We think it highly probable, that they would be at least as numerous, or perhaps more so, than have been known there for many years; so that even the interest of the village of old Aberdeen (if this deserves notice in a matter of such general import) would not suffer, but perhaps be benefited by the Union. In regard to the support of the buildings, we entertain not the smallest doubt, that from the funds of the Colleges being united, and kept under proper management, both fabrics might be easily preserved, at least in as compleat repair, as they are in their present separate state. Nor can we consider it as any great inconvenience, if some of the Professors, should have occasion to walk a mile once a week, to attend a meeting of the faculty, for regulating the discipline, or other affairs of the society.

The Memorialists also object to our proposal of establishing a sinking fund, for the public uses of the University, which we are the more surprized at, as we find it otherwise very generally approved. And against the future misapplication of this, or any of our other funds, we trust that the wisdom of the legislature will make effectual provisions—They say (Memorial, p. 9.) that upon setting apart 100l. per annum for this purpose, there would remain from the salaries of the three offices to be suppressed, for any augmentations or other purposes, “nearly *nothing*”—We think otherwise, for by adding together the value of three of the ordinary salaries in either College, the amount will be at least 200l. from which if 100l. be set apart for an accumulating fund, the remainder is surely *more* than they represent it; and if the Principal's salary be one of the number suppressed, the amount of these will be considerably higher than the sum above mentioned. (Appendix. No. 6.) If however it should be found, that so large a sum, could not be conveniently appropriated to this useful establishment, without rendering our present exertions languid, it might be restricted to what

our funds could easily allow, which, if they are at present insufficient for the ends proposed, will not probably be less so, at the end of this dispute.—

Such are the principal differences between us on this subject, which as we early entertained little hope of adjusting among ourselves, without departing entirely from our present plan, we have uniformly expressed our willingness to submit to the determination of others; and also our desire to meet the views of our opponents, when they should be pleased to communicate them, that we might cordially unite in promoting a measure, that we judged equally advantageous to both societies.

For this purpose, every endeavour has been used on our part, to avoid exposing our disputes to the public view, or bringing them before the tribunal of Royal Visitors. We are sorry to say, that our opponents have persisted in rejecting all our offers of accommodation.—One in particular was made to them, which we flattered ourselves they would have thought worthy of their attention. When our petition was ready for being transmitted to London, it was shown to some of their number (whose good offices we hoped for as mediators between us) together with the subscriptions of the nobility and gentry, and several of their letters of approbation: and at the same time, an offer was made of referring, not the expediency of an Union, (which the Memorialists do not deny) but the terms of it, to the arbitration of the Rectors of the two Colleges, as persons not only most unexceptionable in every respect, but the best qualified and the best entitled to determine them.—In the appendix No. 7, will be seen the nature of our offer, together with their answer, upon which we shall not trouble the public with any observations.—

We have now pretty fully stated the principal arguments in favour of the proposed Union, together with some of the advantages, that would naturally arise from it to the public, and to the state of learning in this country. We have also endeavoured, and we hope successfully, to obviate every objection, that has been adduced on the other side, altho' many of them were entirely new and unexpected, having never occurred to our opponents, or to us, in 1754, in 1770, or until the present occasion.—If therefore in answering these, we have been led into discussions,

cussions, that may be judged of little importance, or foreign to the subject, and if we have thereby exceeded the limits we at first proposed, we think we have some claim to the indulgence of the public.—To the opinion which they shall form of the utility of the scheme, or of the means by which it may be best promoted, we most cheerfully submit; and upon their opinion, we believe the event of the present contest will ultimately depend.—Should this attempt however prove unsuccessful, which we trust it will not, we can neither entertain any hope or desire of seeing it revived in our times.—Whatever may be the case, we are fully persuaded, that every argument in opposition to the public good, will be considered by the public, as comparatively frivolous, and that no opposition to measures which the country in general approves, can either be lasting or successful.

A P P E N D I X.

No. I. *Act of Council of Aberdeen, respecting the Union of the Colleges, August 2, 1786.*

AT Aberdeen, the second day of August, seventeen hundred and eighty-six, in presence of the Council. The said day, the Council having resumed the consideration of a letter, of date the fifteenth of July last, address'd to Provost Cruden by the reverend Dr. George Campbell, Principal of the Marischal College, in name of that University, accompanying a printed Memorial and general heads of a Plan, for an Union of the King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen, together with a draught of a petition, propos'd to be presented to the King, for a Royal Visitation of both Universities, for the purpose of examining into the advantages to be expected from their being united, and for adjusting a plan, in conformity to which, the Union long desired by the friends of literature and

and science in this country, may at length be happily accomplished. All which having been read over to, and maturely deliberated upon by the Council, they are unanimously of opinion, that an Union of the said King's and Marischal Colleges (under a proper plan and suitable regulations) will tend greatly to the advancement of literature and science in the Northern parts of Scotland, and in this city in particular, and that it may also be attended with many other beneficial consequences.

WHEREFORE, the Council DID, and DO hereby unanimously APPROVE in general, of the measure now proposed, of such an Union being effected, either by petitioning his Majesty for a Royal Visitation of both the said Colleges, or by such other means, as shall appear most conducive for obtaining the object desired. And the Council DID, and DO hereby RECOMMEND to the Provost, to transmit an extract or certified copy of this present act to the Right Honourable Lord Sydney, Secretary of State for the Northern Department, and in the Council's name, to request his Lordship's countenance and support, in procuring a favourable answer upon the said petition, to be presented to his Majesty. Extracted upon this and the preceding page from the Council Register of the city of Aberdeen by.

(Signed)

ALEX. CARNEGIE.

A similar approbation has been received from the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen.

No. II. *Act of Council of the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Inverness, with regard to the Uniting of the King's and Marischal Universities of Aberdeen.*

AT INVERNESS, the 25th day of September, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six years, present William M'Intosh, Esq; Provost, Mess. Alexander Shaw, John M'Intosh, James Shaw, and Robert Warrand, Baillies; William Inglis Dean of Guild, James Clark Treasurer, Phineas M'Intosh, and William Chisholm, Esqrs; late Provosts, Alexander M'Intosh, late Bailie, Thomas Young, late Treasurer, Thomas Munro, Alpin Grant, Donald M'Pherson, and Thomas Warrand, Merchants

Merchants and Guild Brethren, Alexander M'Leod, Deacon Conveener, and John Ross, Deacon of the Taylors, all Counsellors of the said Burgh, in Council convened about the Town's affairs.

WHICH DAY the Provost reported to the Council, that there had been transmitted to him, a printed copy of a paper, entitled, "Outlines of a plan for uniting the King's and Marischal Universities of Aberdeen, with a view to render the system of education more complete," and that as this community and the neighbouring country are materially interested in every measure which may affect the prosperity and well being of the Universities at Aberdeen, where so many of our youth receive their education, the Provost thought it his duty to lay the proposed plan before the Council for their consideration.

And the printed paper above mentioned, having been read over, and maturely deliberated upon by the Council, they are unanimously of opinion, that an Union of the two Colleges at Aberdeen, upon a proper plan and under suitable regulations, would be attended with beneficial consequences, and would tend greatly to the advancement of literature and science in the Northern parts of Scotland. And therefore, the Council DID, and DO hereby APPROVE in general, of the measure now proposed for effecting the Union of the Colleges, by such means and in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the further promotion of learning and science: And the Council recommend to the Provost to transmit an extract of this act to Dr. James Dunbar, one of the Professors of the King's College, and to assure him and such other Members of the Colleges as favour the Union, of the hearty concurrence and approbation of the Magistrates and Council of this Burgh, so far as they are interested, or as their influence can extend.

(Signed) WILLIAM MACINTOSH, Provost.

Extracted from the Council Records of the said Burgh, upon this and the two preceding pages,

(Signed) CAMPBLE MACINTOSH, Clerk Depute.

Similar acts of Council were received from the Burghs of Wick, Nairn, Forres, Elgin, Banff, Arbroath, &c. &c.

No. III. *Extract from the Opinion of the Physicians in Aberdeen, with regard to the Establishment of Medical Classes in the United University.*

THAT part of the proposed plan of Union betwixt the King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen, wherein the institution of a Medical School is intended, having been under our consideration,

We think it proper to deliver our joint opinion upon the subject, and submit it to whatever purpose shall be thought necessary by the Magistrates of Aberdeen.

In the first place, we entertain no doubt whatever of the success of a medical school in this city, if it is properly instituted as a part of the University.

Some of us are well acquainted with the circumstances which contributed many years ago, to defeat the attempt of the late Drs. Gregory and Skene to establish a medical school; but these are now totally done away.

Some private attempts of late have succeeded better, but still the countenance and support of an University establishment are requisite to give assurance of full success in this matter.

In whatever degree it may take place, it's great utility to the students of medicine here, and in the North parts of Scotland, cannot be called in question; and we earnestly wish for it on account of the young men who are, or may be under our care; and at the same time we are confident, it would induce many more to come here for their education, a great number of whom now go to the army and navy and on board merchant ships, without any other education than a country shop and practice can afford. * * *

(Signed)

Alexander Robertson, M. D.

Alexander Bannerman, M. D.

William Livingston, M. D.

Francis Frazer, M. D.

George French, M. D.

Alexander Gordon, Surgeon.

George Skene, M. D.

Alexander Donaldson, M. D.

No. IV. *Resolutions of the Society of Procurators in Aberdeen.*

At Aberdeen, the fourth day of October, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six years, in presence of a general meeting of the Society of Procurators in Aberdeen, called (by five members) in terms of their charter; in order to deliberate and give their opinion "whether
" the Establishment of Law Classes in this City would
" be beneficial to the Society."

THE meeting having deliberately considered the subject upon which the society has been called, and being fully persuaded that the institution of Classes for Civil and Scots Law within the city of Aberdeen, would be highly advantageous to this part of the country in general, and particularly to the Society of Procurators, as their young men and apprentices would thereby have an opportunity of studying law in a scientific manner, and at a moderate expence, without being obliged as at present to go to distant places for that purpose; the society therefore hereby **DECLARE** their hearty approbation of the institution of such Law Classes, and **RESOLVE**, That in the event of their being established, they will not only recommend to their apprentices to attend the same, but will also apply to the judges to have an act of their respective courts made, rendering it indispensibly necessary in every candidate for admission as a Procurator, to produce along with his application, a proper certificate of his having regularly attended for a year, any Scots Law Class that may be established in this city, or in some other University.—And the meeting appoint this resolution to be entered in their books, and extracts of it to be given by their Treasurer to such as desire it.

Extracted from the minute book of the Society by
(Signed) CHARLES BANNERMAN, Treasurer.

The above Resolutions are subscribed by above Twenty Members of the Society.

No. V. *Extracts of Letters received from various Persons, relating to the Union.*

A Nobleman of the first rank in the North of Scotland writes thus. "I had the honour of your Letter, and am happy to find that my endeavour to promote an Union between the two Colleges has met with the approbation of you and your colleagues. It will always give me great satisfaction to support any measure, that may tend to promote the advancement of Literature in the North of Scotland. I look upon an Union between the Colleges as indispensibly necessary for that purpose—you may therefore be assured, that I shall use every exertion in my power, and take any step that ye will do me the honour to suggest, in order to accomplish a plan so full of advantages, and so very beneficial to this country in general."

II. Another Nobleman eminently distinguished for his love of Learning and attachment to his country, uses the following words. "I am very sensible of the honour done me by the respectable Society of Marischal College, and the approving Professors of King's, and have signed with hearty approbation the paper transmitted to me. I shall be happy if it can be of any service in furthering an Union, which I long ago suggested to some of the well wishers to Aberdeen, and to the North of Scotland, almost precisely on the same plan with that now chalked out."

III. A third Nobleman, intimately connected with this country, says, "I have received yours, acquainting me of the proposed Union of the two Universities of Aberdeen—a plan I have often heard suggested in private conversation, and which always met with my ideas (so far as I was acquainted in that matter)—but so respectable a character as that of Lord Bute alone, would induce me to give it my approbation, and to wish you, Gentlemen, most heartily, success."

IV. A fourth Nobleman of the same rank, and equally connected with our Universities, writes in these terms. "I have read with attention the Letter you was so good as to favour me with, dated the 12th inst. and have carefully perused and considered the printed Outlines of the Plan which it inclosed, and so far as I am capable of judging, I think it a very proper and a very liberal one, and
the

the proposed Union an object, the success of which would be followed by the most beneficial consequences to the interests of Literature, and the improvement of academical education in the North of Scotland. It is therefore in my opinion an attempt exceedingly praiseworthy, and singularly deserving of the countenance and support of all who are connected with, or who wish well to that part of the country."

V. A fifth Nobleman, possessed of the largest property in this county, writes thus. "I had the favour of your obliging letter, with a plan for uniting the two Colleges at Aberdeen, which I shall be glad takes place, as I think it a very proper one, and am persuaded it would be attended with many advantages to the public, and to learning in general—I propose being in London the end of next month, and if I can be of any service to you there, shall be happy in doing it."

VI. A sixth Nobleman who has been long and intimately acquainted with the state of Aberdeen and its Colleges, says, "I am favoured with your letter of the 12 inst. and its inclosures—those to Lord G—— have also been delivered, and you may assure yourself of his Lordship's *approbation* of the Union, and mine, with our most hearty wishes for its success—I never was more clear in any point in my life, and I have been so uninterruptedly since the 1754, when I first represented the county of —, thinking as I do, that it must be attended with the *utmost* utility to learning and to the country."

VII. The following is the opinion of a Gentleman of the first rank and character, and particularly interested in the prosperity of these Universities. "I received the favour of your letter, on the subject of the Plan for uniting the two Universities of Aberdeen. Had they been constitutionally formed upon the same principles, I believe an Union would have taken place before this time; but the different interests of individuals prevented it in 1754, and I am afraid the same objections still subsist—The Plan now proposed seems to be upon a liberal footing, and I most sincerely wish it may take place; but as it has been twice attempted, and often agitated on different occasions, and never agreed to, I have no hopes of the proposed end being obtained, unless an application be made to the

Crown

Crown for a Visitation, and perhaps the interposition of the Legislature may at last be found necessary."

VIII. Another gentleman, who is connected in a public capacity with this part of the country, says, "The measure of an Union appears to me calculated to answer the best purposes for the advancement of literature, and I am more surprised that it should not have been sooner accomplished, than that it should have been for so many years, the object of the wishes of so many Professors of both Universities. Some obstacles seem still to stand in the way, and I must be permitted to add, that I am sorry it should be necessary to have recourse to the expedient of a visitation, which you seem indeed to embrace with reluctance—However, I am so much aware of the difficulty or rather impracticability of producing an Union of sentiments among so many individuals as compose the two Universities, that in hinting my dislike of the mode proposed, I must in candor confess my doubts, whether any other could be suggested, to effect the Union so much desired. Impressed with this idea, and confident that every effort will still be made to bring about the Union in an amicable manner, I have no hesitation in avowing my strong approbation of the measure in general, and I dare say the particulars of the Plan will be considered and arranged in the best way possible."——

IX. Another, the last we shall mention, a Gentleman of considerable rank and fortune in a Northern county, who it appears had not even seen our Plan of Union, expresses himself as follows.

"I have not yet seen the Plan for the Union of the Marischal and King's Colleges of Aberdeen, but I am, very well persuaded, that an Union upon liberal principles is a measure that all the counties to the north of the Tay, are very much interested in, and should support; as it would place an enlarged system of education more within their reach, and that, not attended with the same risk to health and morals that young men are exposed to in larger seminaries. If my taking a part in the matter could be of the smallest consequence, you may believe my readiness to do so."

The above extracts, it is presumed, will afford a satisfactory answer to the accusation of our opponents, "that Gentlemen

" had been surprized into an approbation of our measures." which as it could only be refuted in this manner, we hope the above Noblemen and Gentlemen will readily forgive the liberty we have taken, of publishing a correspondence that does us so much honour.

No. VI. *State of the Salaries of both Colleges.*

| | |
|---|----------|
| S ALARY of Principal of King's College in 1770, | £. 136 |
| Salary of Principal of Marischal College in 1770, arising from crop 1769, | 107 10 3 |
| Salary of the same, on a medium of five years, crops 1780 to 1784 inclusive | 131 14 6 |
| Salaries of Professors of Philosophy and Greek in King's College, 1770 | £. 63 |
| Salary of Professors of Philosophy and Greek in Marischal College, 1770 | 55 6 9 |
| Salary of the same, in a medium of the five years above mentioned | 67 17 11 |

As the offices of Principal and of Professors of Philosophy and Greek are those only which the scheme of Union leads to a comparison of, it is unnecessary to specify the salaries of the other offices.

The salaries of the Principal and Professors in King's College in 1770, are taken from a state in the hand-writing of their Procurator. What their precise amount is at present, we have not been able to learn, but we are assured, that they have received no increase since 1770, if they have not fallen off in value.

No. VII. *Proposal delivered to Dr. Thom on Saturday, August 5, 1786.*

SINCE Principal Chalmers and his friends have objected to the plan of Union, as improper and impracticable; it is proposed by the friends of the Union in both Colleges, that it should be referred to the two Rectors to digest such a Plan as they, after hearing both parties, shall think proper in all respects, and practicable. Each Member of both Parties binding himself not to oppose, directly or indirectly,

indirectly, that plan of union which the Rectors shall agree on.—The Rectors shall have power to choose an Overman, if there be occasion : and if their plan is not finally settled before the day of both parties shall be at liberty to proceed as they think fit.

An answer is expected on Tuesday next.

Answer to the above.

PPrincipal Chalmers and the few members of King's College who have had an opportunity of seeing and considering the paper left by Mr. P. Copland with Dr. Thom, return the following answer :

Whatever plan the two Rectors shall take the trouble to digest, they will examine with candour and the strictest impartiality, having in their eye the public utility and the rights and privileges of the King's College, and shall deliver their opinion in writing : But in so doing they can have no concert with the members of the Marischal College or their two adherents in this College, for reasons that their recollection will readily suggest to them.

D E F E N C E

Of the CONDUCT of MARISCHAL COLLEGE, in relation to the present Scheme of UNION, against the Attack made on it by the Principal and Six Professors of King's College, in a letter to a friend, by a Member of Marischal College.

DEAR SIR,

October, 1786.

YOU tell me, that, in the judgment of many sensible people, we, and our associates in King's College, have done a great deal for the vindication of the measure, the Uniting of the Colleges, and for the recommendation of the particular Plan of Union we have laid before the public ; but that those of the Marischal College have not

M 2

entirely

entirely exculpated themselves from the accusations brought against them by their opponents: nay, to some things, you say, with which they have charged us, we have not deigned to make any reply at all. I acknowledge there is truth in the remark. But you will surely admit, that it was both more important, and more respectful to the public, to exert our abilities rather in justifying the cause than in justifying ourselves, and vindicating the manner in which we have conducted this business, from the aspersions which have been thrown upon it. This last part, I own at the same time, though of less, is of some importance; for there are not a few, who are incapable of giving an impartial ear to a cause when they are prejudiced against the persons concerned in it, and the manner of conducting it. I shall therefore, in this letter, endeavour, as briefly as possible, to gratify you, by taking some notice of every charge which appears of any moment, brought against us in their Memorial. And if I should not be able to convince you, that we have in every thing adopted the most prudent measures, which I do not attempt, I hope to make it evident, that we have given no just ground for the clamour which some have attempted to raise. I am sorry that in this, I shall be obliged to detect some misrepresentations of fact, with which the Memorial, said to be of the University and King's College, so remarkably abounds. The task is irksome; but it is become necessary.

The first thing, when I peruse the Memorial with this view only, that seems to require some notice, is what is said at the top of page 3. in relation to the former attempt towards an Union in 1770. It seemed exceedingly unnecessary, unless as much as possible to load the charge against the Marischal College, to introduce an affair so little connected with the present, that the faults, if there were any, committed in the conduct of the one, can bring no reflection on the conduct of the other. But, let us hear what the writer says: "A joint meeting of both colleges was called early in the winter 1771." He should have said, early in 1772. § "In it, some Members of the King's College

§ Certain circumstances led me to remember, that the meeting spoken of was in the end of January or beginning of

"totally disapproved the articles proposed." It would have given fuller information, without requiring more words, to have said, "two Members of King's College;" for the Principal had then but one adherent; four of the present six were on the opposite side, and one has been admitted since that period.

"At the same time," it is added, "a letter to the Marischal College, from their Chancellor, was read, and it appearing to be an answer to one written by them to his Lordship, and that seemingly in the name of both Colleges, fault was found with their having written without the privity of the other College, on a matter in which both were equally interested." No Letter was ever written by us to our Chancellor, that could be understood to be in the name of both colleges. What was written, was expressly in the name of the Marischal college, and was signed by them all. The answer is extant, and tho' sent under cover to the Principal, is directed within To the Principal and the Professors of the Marischal College of Aberdeen; who are all collectively addressed in the letter, by the title of Gentlemen. Can such a letter be said to be seemingly an answer to a letter written in the name of both Colleges? if the author of the Memorial be the person to whom the public universally ascribes that paper, (and if he be not, that person ought to do himself the justice to disclaim it) he *had been* a Member of the Marischal College during the greater part of that

of February, and what is said in the Memorial misled me at first into the opinion that it must have been in 1771; for by no idiom that I am acquainted with, can January or February 1772 be called *early in the winter* 1771. Now if the meeting had been in the beginning of 1771, the Gentleman alluded to was then a Member of Marischal College; for his resignation is dated June 18th, 1771. If then I was mistaken, as I certainly was, in representing him as, at that meeting, a Member of the Marischal College, I was led into that mistake by the Memorial itself. If it be asked what evidence I have that the meeting was early in 1772, my answer is; Since writing the Defence, I have fortunately lighted on the letter from the Chancellor which was the subject of conversation at that meeting, and which is dated January 9th, 1772.

transaction †. Was it ever their method to write in the name of others who had not empowered them, and without their privity? Let him speak out what he knows: for he will not deny, that whilst he remained a Member, the Society did nothing in that matter without him. Every measure taken, if not suggested by him, had the sanction of his cordial approbation; for no one appeared more zealous in the cause than himself; nor was greater deference shown to any person's opinion than to his.

“Fault was found with their having written without the privity of the other College, &c.” When the Colleges began to hold meetings together on the subject, it was resolved, that each College should write to and consult their Chancellor, for the Chancellor of King's College was then alive, tho' dead before the meeting in 1772, but it was neither required nor expected by either, that there should be such a communication of the letters given and received. We held it sufficient, that the import of the answer was communicated. We entertained no jealousy of each other. Having the same common object, each placed an entire confidence in the measures taken by the other. Our writing *without their privity*, carries an insinuation that we did it in a clandestine manner. I would beg this writer to reflect, whether there was any such communication made to Marischal College of the letters of King's College. They wrote to their Chancellor no doubt, for we were expressly told, long before the meeting in 1772, that he appro-

† *As so much notice has been taken of this mistake in a date which the author was led into by trusting too much to the accuracy of the Memorial from King's College, it may not be improper to subjoin here his words as first published, but which upon discovering the nature and cause of his mistake, were instantly corrected as above.* “No letter was ever written by us to our Chancellor, that could be understood to be in the name of both Colleges. What was written was expressly in name of the Marischal College, had their unanimous approbation, and was signed by the Principal as Principal; which nobody will believe that they or he would have taken upon them to do for King's College. But why do the Memorialists say *seemingly*? If the author of the Memorial be the person to whom &c. he was then a Member &c.”

ved the design, and would give it all the support in his power. But this author will not say, that any letter written to him, was either shewn to the Members of Marischal College, or demanded by them.

"It was demanded," says the writer, "that their letter should be communicated, but this was positively refused." By whom was it refused? Was it by the Principal? He will not be accused of answering for the Society, unless when he is expressly authorized by them. And on this point there could have been no previous resolve, as the demand was unexpected. By the expression *positively refused*, who would not understand the meaning to be, that we declared that we would not show them that letter? Now the simple fact is no more than this. No copy of that letter had been brought to the meeting, because not one of us had thought it of any consequence; as the answer was sufficiently explicit, and perfectly intelligible without it. Besides, it ought to have been mentioned, that the meeting was held in a house in the farther end of Old Aberdeen, a small circumstance which the Memorialists have overlooked, but which would have shown at once, that their request could not have been instantly complied with, had the Members of Marischal College been ever so much disposed to do it. And, to say the truth, the conversation took such a turn afterwards, as could produce no inclination on either side to renew it.

They next proceed to the measures which have been adopted for promoting the present scheme. "It was begun earlier," they say, "than last summer." I do not know what the Memorialists mean by its *being begun*; for if holding any conversation on the subject of uniting the Colleges be understood by the phrase *it was begun*, I will not hesitate to say, it may have been begun many summers ago. Perhaps it would be more proper to say, it was never concluded, since an Union was first projected amongst us in 1754, or rather 1747. Certain it is that none of us ever scrupled to give his opinion on the subject wherever it was broached: for, till September 1785, we had never dreamt that it was so dangerous a topic to enter upon: and that in particular the company in which any one of us, tho' not the introducer of the subject, ventured to give an opinion upon it, was a matter of such critical consequence,

consequence, that the success or the ruin of the most unexceptionable plan might depend on that single circumstance. Admit that it was as early as summer 1784, or earlier, if you please, that a person of rank with whom we have the honour to be connected, to whom we lie under the greatest obligations, and who had been applied to in the year 1770 in favour of the plan of Union concerted then, had expressed a curiosity, on meeting with one of the Members of Marischal College at London, to know particularly the circumstances which had occasioned the failure of that plan; was it criminal in that member to gratify him, and tell him what he knew of the matter? Or was it necessary that he should remain inflexibly silent, because he was conscious that he had not previously consulted the members of King's College, nor even those of his own, that he might be instructed in what he should say? I believe no person of cool reflection, will say that such a conduct would have been reconcilable to any principle of duty, propriety, or good manners. Yet on this point ultimately rests the whole clamour of bad usage so artificially raised, and so industriously propagated.

“ The preceeding summer, to wit 1784, an Union had
 “ either occurred or been suggested to one Gentleman of
 “ the Marischal College, and he had held some conver-
 “ sations on the subject with persons of high rank at Lon-
 “ don.” The Gentleman here meant denies absolutely
 that he held any conversation on the subject in 1784 with
 any person of rank, except the nobleman above alluded
 to, who introduced the subject. It appears strange to us
 that the Memorialists should think themselves entitled to
 belief from the public, when they boldly affirm what they
 can know nothing of but by information, without deigning
 to produce their authority. “ Some time in the autumn,
 “ winter, or early spring thereafter, this was communicated
 “ by him to all the members of that College, and to one
 “ member of the King's.” Here it consists with the know-
 ledge not of one but of all the members of Marischal Col-
 lege, that no such communication was made to the Col-
 lege, either *in the autumn, winter, or early spring thereafter*:
 In fact he had nothing to communicate, except the conver-
 sation he had had with the Chancellor, which he mentioned
 occasionally to some individuals but did not formally im-
 part

part to the Society. The first part of this paragraph presents us with an obscure detail, which affirms nothing that is not guarded by an alternative; so that the whole appears a string of guesses rather than of facts. But guessing does not appear to be this writer's talent. Dire designs, it seems, on that occasion, *occurred* to one Gentleman, or if they did not occur, they were *suggested* to him; communications were made *some time in the autumn*; or if not in the autumn, in *winter*; or if not in winter, in *early spring*. Another journey to London took place; more conversations were held. At that time, *if not previously, in some of these* conversations at London, *if not at home*, a royal visitation was proposed, and what is more wonderful still, before application made to the crown, the *visitor is named*. It is surely not worth while to examine these things particularly.

Suffice it to say, that admitting what they would account the worst side in all the alternatives, it is not in our power to discover the great matter of offence. We repeat what we have told the world in the Outlines, (p. 1. near the foot) and which is more than all their narrative amounts to, that it was a subject of regret to us, and to all here who valued the interests of literature, that any scheme which would have conduced to the improvement of education, had been suffered to miscarry; that our good wishes were frequently expressed, and enquiries from time to time made, concerning the hope of seeing it revived; that in this disposition some members of each society (for there were more than one in King's College from the first) conversed together freely on the subject. Nor needs any person wonder that at that time, they inclined to converse with those who they had reason to think, would favour the scheme, before they opened it to those who, they foresaw, would give it all the opposition in their power. The writer of the Memorial may please to remember that the plan concerted in 1770, was for many months the subject of discussion in a private club, to which he belonged, consisting of some members of each College and of some who were members of neither, before it was judged expedient by him or by any member of the club to communicate the matter to the Principal of King's College, and the other members of both. Yet four of the seven who oppose the present scheme were zealous promoters

promoters of that one. And of the four two were members of that club.

But to proceed ; " some time after" the return from London, " a Meeting of the Marischal College was called ; " they were informed of all the steps which had been taken, " and they unanimously resolved, not to mention the subject to any of us, till the annual Meeting of both Colleges in September. But the only member who had " been absent did, either thro' ignorance of their resolution, or from his natural openness, give one of us information of the design, and a candid and pretty full account of the several steps which had been taken ; but " this only four days before the annual Meeting : And on " the discovery of his having done so, the matter was " mentioned to a few others of King's College." This narrator has been very unlucky in dropping the alternatives before he was better provided in information. We admit, that as soon after the Professor's return from London, as a competent number of the Members could be found in town (it being vacation time) a Meeting of the Marischal College was called, and they were informed of the steps which had been taken. In this the writer of the Memorial has said the truth, thro' very imperfectly ; otherwise he would have added, that this was the first information given them in their Collegiate capacity, and to some present at that Meeting it was the first time such a scheme had been mentioned at all. On what sort of evidence he has advanced what follows, I shall not attempt to divine. " They unanimously resolved not to mention the subject to any of " us, till the annual Meeting." &c. The fact is directly contrary. They unanimously resolved, that such of the gentlemen of King's College, as had not been already informed, should be informed of the scheme as soon as possible, and of the encouragement we had to hope that it would meet with support from persons of rank, when application should be made to Parliament, and for this purpose most of those present undertook to open the matter to some or other of the Members of that College, who were all named, that none might be forgotten. There were just five of us present at that Meeting, every one of whom remembers distinctly every circumstance above related. We should be glad to know, and the public is entitled

titled

entitled to demand from whom the Memorialists had their intelligence, which is perfectly the reverse, and contradicted by all that were present.

The only thing which we agreed not to mention was, that a Visitation had been suggested, in case of obstacles, otherwise insurmountable. We were aware that there might be some by whom the mention of such a measure would be interpreted as a threat; and that there might be others who being determined for reasons of their own, to oppose an Union in any form, would not desire a better handle for working on the passions of their colleagues to procure their concurrence. Besides, to tell you plainly, we ourselves were not then satisfied as to the expediency of such a measure. A Visitation was a thing we were little acquainted with. We had not leisure to examine and weigh all the consequences, and therefore were not ripe for coming to any positive determination about it. With so little regard to truth is it asserted (Mem. Page. 4.) that an application for a Royal Visitation was a step already concerted: But of this more afterwards. Nothing however could have served more to hasten our resolutions on this head, than the heat with which the subject was taken up by our opponents, the misrepresentations made of our measures, the clamour so undeservedly raised against us, and the impossibility of dealing with them in any other manner. It was by the mention of a plan of union, that the member who had been absent from our meeting, did unintentionally counteract our design: In mentioning the union he co-operated with us: but it was by the mention of a visitation, which quickly produced all the effects we had foreseen. Nor was it on the discovery of what he had done, but in consequence of our own resolution, that the matter was mentioned to other gentlemen of King's College. I shall not accuse the writer of the Memorial of wilfully misrepresenting facts, in order to hurt us in the opinion of the public. But we have all great reason to complain that he has been at no pains in examining the information, or rather the conjectures and suspicions on which he has founded the charge now published to the world against us. And we cannot help saying of all the Memorialists that they have had more implicit faith in that writer than we could have believed them capable of.

In

In the next paragraph the writer has thought proper to give his account of what happened at the annual Meeting. Of this I shall observe by the way, that it does not contradict any thing advanced in the Outlines, except in one slight circumstance, which shall afterwards be taken notice of. It is very true, that on mentioning at that Meeting, that a scheme of Union of the Colleges had been again thought of by some who had conversed on the subject with persons of rank, and had been encouraged to hope that such a plan as might conduce to the interests of learning, would meet with powerful patronage and support; some members of King's College demanded in a peremptory tone, first to be acquainted with all the steps which had been taken, &c. before they would hear us on the merits of the cause. Willing to gratify them in every thing reasonable, they were informed by the gentleman to whom they particularly directed their discourse, of every thing material that had passed.

They say, "with the *omission* of several things which before had been communicated to one of them." I know nothing of moment that was omitted, unless they reckon his not mentioning a Visitation an omission of this kind. But let it be observed, that when a visitation amongst other expedients was first suggested, it was not as a step in the procedure for effecting the Union, it was only as one method of surmounting difficulties otherwise insuperable, in case they should occur. But as we were persuaded, that if the gentlemen were as well disposed to concert together for forming a proper plan as all who were members at the time had shown themselves on one former occasion, and the greater part of them on two, there would be no difficulties to surmount, and consequently no need for recurring to Visitation; (persuaded of this, I say) both propriety and delicacy required that we should avoid whatever instead of inducing them to enter into our views, might occasion their stumbling at the threshold. Besides, it was a step which at that time was neither meant nor wished by any of us. When they put the question it was admitted, that it had been amongst other things thrown out in conversation on the subject, but had received no mark of approbation from us. And tho' it was not in our power to view it in the formidable light in which they appeared

appeared to view it, we were very far from desiring to recur to it. We entreated therefore that, dropping a measure which had been perhaps inconsiderately mentioned, they would consider of the plan to be adopted. We did not pretend to fix any thing. We had only employed our thoughts on the subject, which they might consider at present, or at any future period which the joint meeting of both societies should be pleased to appoint.

But it was in vain to expect a patient hearing to any motion that would have led them to canvass the merits of the cause: there were many things they must previously be satisfied about. As we were inclinable to keep them in good humour if possible, we begged to know what it was they wanted to be satisfied about. On this indeed two of them (there were only five of King's College present) assumed the office of Examiners; and the gentleman of whom they speak in the Memorial, was (we may say without a figure) put to the question by them: For there is a species of torture to an ingenuous mind, in being harassed with questions, to which an immediate answer is required, relating to what passed in private conversation at different times, and in very different companies, and even perhaps in the confidence of friendship. Many things may pass in private conversation, which whether proper or not, whether material or trifling, it would be very indelicate and improper for either of the parties to mention in public without the consent of the other. Now as it is hardly possible for those who have most presence of mind always to distinguish on the sudden, between what may or may not with propriety be communicated, we were very sensible that our Colleague was put by those importune querists in a very distressing situation. They became, as they advanced, more minute in their inquiries, as to what was spoken, when, by whom, &c. &c. in so much that he at last found it necessary to evade some of their questions, and to decline giving any answer to others. And it was very pertinently observed to the Examiners by one of our members, that he did not see any propriety in many of the questions, or any occasion for answering them, as it could serve no other purpose than to inflame matters, and perhaps expose individuals to their displeasure. Much clamour also was set up, that the members of Marischal

N

College

College should devise measures for such a public purpose, without consulting with those of King's College. In vain had they been told over and over, that it was not all of Marischal College, but only two or three who had from the beginning, consulted in every thing with two or three of King's College. On their being informed who these last were, we found to our astonishment, that we had been as unlucky in mentioning the matter to those of that College to whom it was mentioned, as in not mentioning it to the rest. Both steps were equally subjects of complaint; for we were given to understand (what most of us knew nothing of before) that they had differed about College matters among themselves, and that some of the few who had been consulted were of the minority. From what happened on this occasion we may remark by the way, that unless an *etiquette* be agreed upon, ascertaining what I may call the order of communication, it will be impossible with people so exceptionous, to manage any matter in time to come, tho' it be ever so profitable for both Colleges. For if a man unhappily err here, (where error is almost inevitable,) and communicate the design to one, before he has mentioned it to another who claims precedence, it is lost irreparably. Those gentlemen, to do them justice, were not always so punctilious. I have observed already how little account they made of such of the members of both Colleges, as did not belong to a certain private club. And what regard they showed to patrons of offices and bursaries, may be learnt from what they themselves say in their Memorial concerning the plans of 1754 and 1770, (p. 2. and 3.) which were purposely kept as secret as possible, till a plan should be prepared and adopted by the two Colleges.

But to return to the meeting in September 1785; when the altercation was beginning to grow warm, one of the Gentlemen of King's College humanely interposed by saying, that there needed not more inquiries into points about which we were not likely to agree; for the union of the Colleges was a thing in its nature impracticable, it being subversive of the fundamental articles of the national Union; and by the decision given in the affair of Wadham College, it was manifest that it would meet with the most powerful opposition from the Law-Lords and all friends

friends of the Constitution. On being checked by a look from one of the Examiners, he apologized by saying, he had perhaps been premature in mentioning these things. (This, by the bye, first shewed us, that measures had been concerted for opposing us). Then one of the members of Marischal College took occasion to observe, that so far was the Gentleman from needing to make an apology for what he had said; that he was the only person who, since the affair had been opened, spoke directly to the point. There are two questions which, before every thing else, should come under discussion: the first is, whether an union of the Colleges be practicable; the second; what sort of union would most conduce to the advancement of literature and the interests of education. The Professor has just now offered some objections to the practicability of such a scheme; let us hear him fully on this head, and begin with canvassing what he offers. If he shall convince us that the matter is as he represents it, there will be an end of the business; none of us will incline to waste time in attempting impossibilities: and if he should not convince us, we shall next enter on the consideration of what would be the most proper plan. On this we were informed, by the two gentlemen who had conducted the examination, that they would enter into no discussion on the subject; for tho' they declared themselves to be of the same sentiments as formerly in regard to the expediency of an Union, the methods taken for effecting this, particularly the mention of a Visitation, had rendered it impossible for them to enter into any concert on the subject.

It appeared to us very surprizing, that men of knowledge, moderation, and discernment, (admitting the truth of this pretext, that we had acted improperly) should renounce a measure, which, by their own acknowledgement, might be made conducive to the interests of learning and the improvement of education in the place, merely because there had been some mismanagement in the manner of bringing it under their review. But THE VISITATION, that ill-omened word, the bare mention of which, gave offence (I should rather say, the being unfortunate enough to hear it mentioned; for it was the same thing whether it had occurred to any of us, or been suggested) was the irremissible sin which could not be expiated

piated, till the present race of Professors should be swept off the face of the earth. Besides, that, in point of consistency their conduct might be all of a piece, one of them declared, the arguments from Wadham College, and the National Union, were unanswerable. Was it matter of wonder that, in the Outlines, we should call this conduct mysterious? It appeared so to us then, and it appears so to us still, in a very high degree.

They say in the Memorial, "At the annual meeting some, not all of us, allowed the expediency of a pro-
"per Union." The truth is, there was only one who expressed a dissent from that opinion. It was the same gentleman who had objected to the practicability of an Union, and was the only person present, who had declared himself of the same sentiments in the year 1770, being at that time the Principal's sole adherent. It is no more than doing him justice, to acknowledge, that he acted with perfect consistency all along: he avowed his opinion in a manly and open manner; but he had prepared no interrogatories, and showed no inclination to avail himself of mere clamour, and the groundless pretence of bad usage, for declining to take a concern in the present scheme. With this only exception, the declaration in favour of an Union was universal: and the following, tho' in itself but a trifling circumstance, yet, because it shows that what has been asserted on this head is not without foundation, deserves to be mentioned. It was proposed, not by any of us, but by one of the five Members of King's College present, that we should conclude the meeting like friends, with drinking a bumper to the Union; which was done accordingly. The Gentleman who made the motion was, I believe, sincere in making it. He had always been friendly to the scheme of Uniting, and we had no reason to think that he had changed his opinion. He had taken no part in the scrutiny; nor did he join in the clamour. To some of us he appeared ashamed of it. Certain it is, that when a reflection was somewhat roughly thrown out by one of his colleagues against one of us, as chargeable with ostentation, and I know not what—on account of some things which it had been judged proper to notify in a newspaper, that Gentleman had the justice and the candour to join against his Colleague, with the
Professor

Professor who had been thus attacked, and to declare, that he had done no more than what, in his opinion, he ought to have done, and what he himself would have done in the like circumstances. It cannot justly render his sentiments in favour of Union questionable, that he is at present one of the six Professors who join the Principal. We can make allowance for the light in which the subject may now appear to him, and perhaps to some others of them. However desirable an object the Union of the Colleges be, they have seen it oftener than once attempted, with the most favourable appearances, but without success. We cannot therefore wonder, that they should reckon the success of the present scheme so improbable an event, as to think it imprudent to risk the harmony they enjoy with those with whom they have hitherto generally concurred in measures, for the sake of a good which they suspect it will not be in their power to attain. If the Gentlemen, who took the lead in opposing us, had, at that meeting, put their refusal to concur with us upon this footing, they would have perplexed us greatly, perhaps divided us. We should have been at a loss to determine, whether any thing further ought to be attempted at present; or what should be attempted: for, whatever they may imagine, we were exceedingly averse, either to break with them, or to occasion any breach among them.

Again, if those gentlemen had taken the opposite method, and had said plainly, "We have changed our opinion: for though we have for many years been persuaded of the possibility and expediency of Uniting the Colleges, and have, at different times, strenuously contended for that measure, we are now convinced that we were all the time egregiously mistaken, that the thing is impossible, or, if it were possible, would be most pernicious;" (if they had taken this method, I say) tho' the change would have surprized us exceedingly, we should have at least admitted, that there was something which had a more manly and ingenuous appearance, in the open acknowledgement of their error, and should perhaps too much, have been induced to put off matters, till, by often conferring together on the subject, we should come to understand one another better. But instead of this, to profess that they were of the same sentiments as formerly,

that they were as zealous for a Union as we were, whilst they were doing every thing in their power to prevent it, and would not admit of so much as conference for setting things to rights, if there had been any mistake in the former part of the management, was to insult our understanding, and treat us as children or fools: for it was only such, that so shallow an artifice was capable of deceiving. That subterfuge cannot avail them, to which now they have recourse, that men may approve one plan of Union who highly condemn another. The Outlines were not then written. There was no plan devised of which their approbation was required. It was only intreated, that they would join with us in digesting a plan.

It is indeed true that they are now beginning, tho' late, to veer about, and to perceive, that the opinions formerly maintained by them will not, in the judgment of the impartial public, be thought consistent with their present conduct. They at length admit, tho' somewhat awkwardly, that they were in the wrong, when they sought to promote an union; but they are grown wiser, and find it their duty now to be as zealous opposers, as in those days they were promoters of it. Accordingly we hear often now of *conscience* and *oaths*. It is surely never too late to renounce an error, or to change from bad to good. And if the alteration in their sentiments and practice be of this kind, it is wise in them to make it. But we cannot help being astonished, that men of good sense and extensive knowledge, as all who are acquainted with those Gentleman will own them to be, should have been so long members of that Society, some of them upwards of forty years, and should never have found out till now, the meaning of an oath which they took at their admission; nay that, tho' they have had it repeatedly under consideration on similar occasions, they were never able to discover in it what they perceive so clearly at present. That oath must be wonderfully equivocal, and consequently good for nothing, of which not only different men (men too of great acuteness and penetration) but the same men at different times give interpretations so contradictory to each other! Yet this, however strange, we must admit, unless we are absurd enough to suppose that they never imagined till now that

perjury

perjury is a crime in a Professor as well as in any other man.

I have taken some notice of four of the Members of King's College who were present at the annual meeting, and I shall only add concerning the fifth, a young gentleman who had been but lately admitted Professor, that he took no part in the conversation, and as far as I remember, made no declaration of his sentiments on either side, except that he joined in drinking to the Union. Only one of the six who now join the Principal was absent; and I can say with truth that all we of Marischal College regretted his absence most sincerely. We knew well that, whatever might be his sentiments of the Union, he was possessed of that coolness, integrity, and good sense which would qualify him for judging impartially between the parties. His presence, we think, would have proved a check on some of his Colleagues, and prevented several things not quite unexceptionable or becoming which took place in that conversation, and thus might, not improbably, have given a better issue to the whole. But whatever be in this, I should have, for my part, been happy to think, that to the truth of a principal part of the facts mentioned in this Defence, I had a witness in their own Society every way so unexceptionable. I need only add, that after they had refused absolutely to have any more conversation or concert with us of any kind upon the subject, either then or afterwards, we parted. The Memorialists not satisfied with the cursory manner in which these things were passed over in the Outlines, tell us that the detail ought to be calculated to explain equally the conduct of both parties. I hope the account now given will be found to possess more of this quality than even that we have in the Memorial, whose principal fault is very different from either minuteness or brevity.

The next piece of information they give us is (p. 5.) that "two of their members, in name of the whole," that is, I suppose of the seven members of King's College who declare against Union, "waited on the Gentleman of the Marischal College who had brought forward the Scheme, and on their proposing that if any letter to their Chancellor on the subject of the Union was resolved on, it should be communicated to us, he said that this appeared reasonable to him, but he could not answer for the Society:"

"Society:" That Gentleman does not allow that he answered in the general terms they have expressed, or in terms equivalent: He affirms that the import of his answer was only, that, in his opinion, no letter affecting their rights and interests ought to be written without their knowledge, and added, that neither he nor, to the best of his knowledge, any of his Colleagues would think of writing what, in their opinion, could have such a tendency. The last clause sufficiently showed the import of his answer to be that any letter by which their interest could be injured, ought not to be written without their knowledge, which is surely very different from *any letter on the subject of the Union.*

The Memorialists add, "Next day one of us waited on the Principal, and, made the same proposal to him, but he refused to communicate to us any letter which they might resolve on writing." Concerning this affirmation the Principal says, that he never read any thing with greater astonishment, yet he cannot allow himself to think that the writer has in this wilfully misrepresented him, as it does not appear to contribute much to his purpose. He is disposed rather to impute it to an inattention arising from some confusion of thought at the time when the application was made. But as to the fact, the Principal has uniformly made it a rule, not to give an answer for the Society, not even in the plainest case, till he is empowered by them. This very rule he mentioned oftener than once to the person who applied to him. That Gentleman said, He had three proposals to make. The first was that the Marischal College should send no letter to their Chancellor, which the King's College had not previously seen and approved. And this was enforced with observing that they had done so formerly, to wit, when their views coincided. This the Principal acknowledges appeared to him a most extraordinary request, as it would have given the King's College the power of putting a negative on their writing at all to their Chancellor. It was indeed so extraordinary, that he suspected the Professor himself, tho' distinguished for acuteness, did not advert to the full import of it. The Principal replied, that if the Gentlemen of King's College desired that he should ask in their name, whether the Marischal College would agree to the proposal, he should take the first opportunity of putting the question to them, and

and should return their answer ; for he never answered for them without their authority : he added, in order to prevent this reply from being interpreted more favourably than he meant it should, that, as to his own private opinion, he did not believe they would agree to such a proposal, nor did he think they ought to do it ; but this he did not give as their answer, but as his own opinion. The second proposal was barely that the letter should be communicated to them. This proposal also, it was replied, should be laid before the Society, and their answer should be sent ; but as to their agreeing to it, the Principal said, he very much doubted. The third was, that at least they should be acquainted whether the Marischal College was determined to write, and when. To this it was answered, that they made no secret of their intention to write ; that they had not written since the annual meeting of the two Colleges ; and he did not doubt, tho' he could not say positively, they would agree, that those of King's College should be acquainted, when it is done, if they desire it.

Soon after this, before he had an opportunity of consulting his Colleagues on the proposals which had been made, he received a card from the Gentleman who had been with him before, purporting that the Principal and six professors of King's College did not accept of what was proposed by the Principal of Marischal College, and were therefore at freedom to take their own measures. This card surpris'd him greatly, being conscious that he had made no proposal to them of any kind ; he had only heard their proposals, promised to lay them before his Colleagues, and to return the answer as soon as possible. He acknowledges he gave his opinion of them, but merely as his particular opinion, that they might not mistake his silence for approbation, as people keenly engaged on a side are sometimes apt to do. Tho' he did not then understand the meaning of this message, what he learnt a considerable time after, explained it entirely. Having discovered that we had not yet written to our Chancellor on the subject of the Union, but were determined to do it, and despairing of any further communication from us, which could be of importance to them, they resolved to be beforehand with us, and to write to his Lordship their representation

Presentation of the whole affair. This we did not discover, till we had accounts of it from London. Their reason for sending the card above mentioned to the Principal appears now to have been, that they might not seem to be in a treaty with us about reciprocal communication, when they took this step without our privity. They had certainly, however, outwitted us. We avowed what we intended to do, but had not yet done. They having drawn from us this discovery of our intentions, carefully concealed their own, whilst they endeavoured to produce in his Lordship a prepossession in their favour against us. But we do not hesitate to acknowledge that we are not matches for them in this kind of policy. Was it to be wondered that after this discovery, we should agreeably to their own example, be more anxious to conceal our measures than formerly, from those who wanted to know them, only that they might render them ineffectual? And let it be observed, that it is only from this time, that the concealment with which we are justly chargeable, must be dated.

To say the truth, after what had passed at the annual Meeting, their applying to us that we would transmit nothing which had not their approbation, or even that we would communicate to them whatever letters we should write on the subject, appeared to us in a ludicrous light. They had declared expressly over and over, that they would have no concert or conference with us on the subject, and within a few days they come to acquaint us, that they were nevertheless desirous that we should not advance a single step without their consent, or if we would not agree to this, that they should know at least whatever we did, or meant to do in that matter, and would take it very unkindly, if we did not tell them every thing. We hoped, on their bare mention of Union to us that they had relented, and were willing to confer with us in an easy manner on the points whereon we might differ. But we soon saw our mistake. War they had already declared against us, if we would not abandon the project; and in this disposition they were inflexible. But as soon as they perceive that we are preparing to meet them in the field, they send us an embassy, such as was never sent from one hostile army to another, not with a view to offer terms of peace, or to ask a parley for an amicable adjustment of differences, but to signify that

that before any engagement, they expect we will be so civil as to submit our plan of operations to their judgment, and reject whatever they do not approve; for in this manner, say they, the Colleges conducted matters formerly (that is, when they were confederates and allies, had the same views, and were engaged on the same side :) Or if we will be so unreasonable as not be directed by their opinion, that we will at least acquaint them with the whole plan, that they may know what measures to take for defeating us.

Such was the modest application that was made to the Marischal College, about the communication of their letters; how differently the Memorialists have represented it, let the world judge. It is exceedingly disagreeable to us to be obliged flatly to contradict what has been affirmed in so public a manner, with so much confidence, and by persons for whom we have always had the greatest regard. But the members of Marischal College find it necessary in their own vindication to make their friends acquainted with the truth, stripped of all the disguises in which their opponents have attempted to involve it. It is but too plainly the aim of the Memorial to perplex and confound: and there needs no more for answering it, as far as regards the historical part, than to unravel and explain. It would be the merest drudgery to go over the whole with this view. I have already given a pretty good specimen of the misrepresentations of fact; I shall now briefly consider in an instance or two, the use they have made of these, and the curious manner in which things totally different are jumbled and confounded in their reasonings.

In the paragraph which begins near the top of p. 4. we find the grounds of the charge of bad treatment against the Marischal College brought together, that they may be under the readers view at one glance. It gives us no little satisfaction to discover that these grounds, abstracting from what is impossible in them, are no other than those allegations which we have shown above to have no foundation in truth. I say, abstracting from what is impossible, for surely it will be allowed to be of this kind, that a proposal suggested in conversation, (I shall suppose) at London, should be communicated to the Professors of King's College Aberdeen, as soon as it is made. But passing this as

an

an oversight, they add, "to agitate it" (to wit, the project of Union) "so many months." It has been shown above, that it was never before any meeting of Marischal College but one, previous to the annual meeting of both Colleges, and that they gave it no further agitation, if that can be called *agitating it*, than to determine with one voice that the members of King's College should be acquainted with it as soon as possible.—It deserves notice also, that that meeting of Marischal College was not fully one month before the annual meeting. If there was any error as yet committed, it was the error of one individual, and not of the Marischal College: It was, besides, a very natural error in the gentleman with whom they say it originated, to impart it to a meeting of Marischal College, the College to which he belongs, before it was communicated to King's College. This is acknowledged to be a fact, one of the very few contained in the Memorial. And if it was a fault, we submit it freely to the impartial public, whether it was of so unpardonable a nature, as our opponents represent it. They add, "to take so many and important steps." Not a single step but the resolution to communicate the matter to King's College, was taken before the annual meeting. Again, "in concert with one or at most two of our colleagues." It is impossible to please those who are resolved to be offended. The clamour was raised at first because a few of Marischal College presumed to hold conversations together on such a scheme, without communicating it to any of King's College: And no sooner did they learn that a few of King's College had been conversed with by a few of Marischal College, than this very circumstance heightened the offence, as has been observed above, "with studied concealment from us."—The studied concealment has been shown to be either a piece of gross misinformation, or the fiction of their own jealousy. All the concealment we have studied is of a later date, and not till they gave us the example. They proceed, "The resolution to conceal every thing from every one of us, till the annual meeting, appeared as soon as we heard of it, very like a design to take us by surprise and unprepared." But pray, Gentlemen, if ye really heard it, from whom did ye hear it? It behoveth you to provide an answer to this question.

We

We are entitled to require it. The public, after what has been said, will expect it. And ye will find it incumbent on you, for your own sakes much more than for ours, to communicate the channel of your intelligence. As to the argument itself, we may with much greater energy retort, if the resolution to conceal every thing from you would have appeared very like an insidious design to take you by surprise; surely the contrary resolution of that very meeting to which the matter was first communicated, to impart it to all of you without loss of time, was a clear indication that we meant to deal honourably and openly with you.

The conclusion of the paragraph is an excellent example of the writer's talent in darkening and perplexing a plain subject. "When even at that meeting we could not obtain a full and fair account of every thing that had been *already* done, to have agreed to conferences about what *further* should be done, would have been to run headlong into a scheme which we were not permitted fully to understand." That it is much easier to entangle than to extricate, the foregoing sentence sufficiently shows. What it is that is here called a *scheme*, I am utterly at a loss to conceive. No plan of union had yet been devised, and consequently no step could have been taken in the execution of a plan not in existence. What had passed previously to that meeting was merely some conversations tending to show that if a plan were prepared which appeared calculated to promote the interests of literature in the North of Scotland, it would meet with great encouragement and patronage from some persons of eminent rank. But no particular plan had been prepared or talked of by those who had a share in such conversations; the Outlines had not yet been written by us. Whilst we entertained any hopes of the concurrence of the gentlemen of King's College, we cautiously avoided taking a single step. In regard to those previous conversations, to know something of them might serve as encouragement to excite both societies to join in forming a plan, but could not be of the smallest conceivable utility in assisting them to understand the plan to be prepared. What could be of any service as a motive; and even more, was told them, much more than the members of Marischal College knew, or had ever thought of asking. But by this additional knowledge, for aught we can discover, we are neither better nor worse qualified for understanding

O

derstanding the scheme now proposed, or any other scheme that may hereafter be proposed. No two things can be more distinct than those here confounded. Were the public to be informed minutely of all the conversations alluded to, and also of all the altercation that has passed between the Colleges on the subject, would this information throw one ray of light on the Outlines of the plan before them? But how it should have been in our power, had we been ever so much disposed, to hinder them from understanding a scheme, which they themselves were to be employed along with us in preparing, seems to exceed all human comprehension.

I shall add another instance of this author's controversial talent, in dextrously shifting the question, by substituting one thing for another. It is in the very next sentence. "Against one particular step already concerted, an application for a Royal Visitation, of the first proposer of which they refused to inform us, we did indeed peremptorily declare; but were so far from *declining giving an explanation of our reasons*, that we did then assign several reasons, tho' perhaps not all which might with propriety have been assigned." The words marked in Italics are quoted from the Outlines, and are here introduced in such a manner, as implies, that we had charged them with declining to give their reasons against applying for a Visitation. No person of common understanding, who reads the sentence in the Outlines, after reading the short paragraph which precedes it, can so strangely misapprehend the meaning. Those who objected to entering into conference with us in regard to the most proper scheme of Union, are manifestly those who are said to have *declined giving an explanation of their reasons*. As to reasons against applying for a Visitation, there was not at that time the smallest occasion for them; yet, even then, we perceived in them the strongest propensity to pervert every word spoken by us in favour of Union, as tho' it had been used as an argument for applying for a Visitation. It was in vain that we told them again and again, that such an application was so far from being a favourite measure of ours, that we had never given it our approbation; and that the very cause for which we so warmly urged a recourse to conferences, was that there might not be a shadow of reason for recurring to a measure so much dreaded by them, and so little to our liking as a Visitation then was. We remember well, they would have
stunned

stunned us with arguments against a Visitation, had we been disposed to listen to them: we told them repeatedly, that it was in vain to argue where there was no opponent: we desired a Visitation no more than they did; we desired to adjust amicably with them a Plan of Union, and would readily admit, that nothing but necessity could excuse a recourse to such an expedient as Visitation. That they declined giving an explanation of their reasons for refusing to hearken to this request, is what we then asserted, and still assert. The only answer made by them, when urged upon this article, was, that the mention of a Visitation had rendered their conferring further on the subject improper. It was this, assigned as a reason, which we called mysterious. Of its validity, the public will judge.

It is not an uncommon art with professed disputants, to introduce a favourite sentiment, at first as a plausible conjecture; when they recur to it a second time, it becomes extremely probable; and at last, it is affirmed to be morally certain, or a thing already demonstrated. This method has a wonderful effect in drawing in superficial readers, who remember in general, that the thing was mentioned before, and trust implicitly to the writer, as to what was said or done concerning it. There is a species of gradation, or amplification, (should I rather call it?) used by this writer, which, if not the same, is near akin to the aforesaid artifice in disputation. When he first mentions applying to the Crown for a visitation, (p. 3.) it is only a thing which had been *proposed* to one of us, and now (p. 4.) in the passage last quoted, it is *a step already concerted by us*, not one but all. The first indeed had been admitted, that the thing was proposed, or rather mentioned to one of us, and therefore required no proof. On the credit of this concession, when the subject is resumed, the word *concerted* is slid into the place of *proposed*, and by the construction of the sentence, the word is made to refer to the whole collectively, and not to one individual only. The reader (unless very attentive) thinks he reads only a repetition of what was before either acknowledged or proved, when, in fact, what he reads is widely different. For in regard to the Society, such a thing had never been *proposed* to them, far less *concerted* by them. Yet this flagrant misrepresentation is confidently asserted over again, in a paper called the Information from the Principal, &c. of King's College. In the Information, indeed, an au-

thority is alleged, no less than that of one of our Members. But let it be observed, that the Member they allude to, had been absent from the only College Meeting to which the project of Uniting the Colleges had been mentioned, previous to the annual Meeting, and that, at the time, he knew not a syllable of what had past amongst his Colleagues, as is admitted in the Memorial itself. Let it be observed further, that tho' he owns he mentioned it as a possible expedient for surmounting difficulties, he neither did, nor could have mentioned it as a step concerted or resolved on by the Society.

I add another instance, (the only other I shall at this time mention) of this legerdmain in arguing, *the shifting of the object*, by bringing you ere you are aware, to conclude that as true of one thing, which was proved or granted only of another. It was admitted that one or two of each College had conversed together on the subject of union.—The one or two of Marischal College quickly become the Marischal College; the one or two of King's College remain one or two still. Hence arises a charge against Marischal College, that they entered into a concert with one or two of the other College, with studied concealment from the rest, not one word of which is agreeable to truth. The Marischal College had never entered into a concert with any of the Members of King's College. The greater part of us knew nothing of those private conversations, till we were informed at the annual Meeting. Further, the writer, not satisfied with making the act of one or two the act of the whole Society, thinks, now he has made sufficient preparation for going one step higher, to complete the climax, and saying that they themselves avowed it as theirs. "We told them," says he, "without any reserve, that our only Colleague," (there were more than one from the first) "with whom THEY AVOWED their having all along acted in concert," &c. I cannot help admiring the boldness (tho' a more apposite word than *boldness* might be found) of this allegation! Who avowed it? Sir, recollect, I pray you. Did all of the Marischal College present, in a body, avow it? Or did any one avow it in their name? I was present, and I am certain, that I neither avowed it, nor heard it avowed of the College by any body: and every one of my Colleagues can say as much. All that was in reality avowed, was no more a foundation for so extravagant an assertion, than it would have been for saying, that

King's

King's College had, in this matter, all along avowedly acted in concert with one or two of our Colleagues. It is solely since the annual Meeting, that there has arisen any thing which they could denominate a combination between any of their Colleagues and us.

Nothing is more certain, than that we never interested ourselves in their internal differences, and, if they themselves had not introduced the matter, the greater part of us had to this day known nothing about them. Whether the Principal, and the six Professors, who concur with him in opposing the projected Union, be properly what they style themselves, The University and King's College, or even be a majority of that learned body, are questions, in the opinion of many, not worth spending half a minute's time in examining. Truth and right are not to be ascertained by names and numbers. And we must be permitted to add, that the conduct with regard to us which has been adopted on this occasion, particularly, the ill-grounded clamour which has, with so much assiduity, been raised and propagated against us, the polemic arts which have been displayed, but above all, the freedoms which have been taken with truth, do not serve to give us a very favourable impression of their side of the question, though the majority, in those differences. We see but too well, from our own experience, what lengths they can go, and what means they can employ, when they are keenly engaged in a cause. At the same time, it is but equitable to add, that all the seven are not involved alike in this charge with regard to us. Some of them had little, and some perhaps no opportunity of knowing the greater part of the facts, here mentioned: the worst whereof we can accuse these, is their being of too easy faith in persons who, in our judgment, have not entirely merited the implicit confidence reposed in them. And even for the writer of the Memorial, or writers, if there were more than one, we are willing to make this apology, that in the most subtle and intelligent persons, the understanding is sometimes the dupe of the passions; inasmuch that even an acute man may not perceive that sophistry in his own reasoning, or those misrepresentations and misconstructions in his own narrative, which an unbiassed reader of inferior talents will discover.

I have now given as ample a specimen of the failures of that performance, in respect both of fact and of argument as may

suffice, I hope, to vindicate us the members of Marischal College from the imputations, which have been by the Memorialists thrown upon us. I have shown the falsity of all the principal facts they allege as the foundation of their charge against us; and as to some of their allegations, I have shown that the truth was the reverse of what they have represented to the world. As their accusation relates chiefly to what passed before hostilities in the present literary war commenced between the parties, I have confined myself to that period. Many more handles for remark might be found in the Memorial, but the task is disagreeable, and, in my opinion, unnecessary. Judicious and impartial people, tho' misled at first by their misrepresentations, they have been disposed to blame us, have at the same time acknowledged that the whole offence taken by our neighbours appears to have arisen from a misjudging pride, a jealous and childish pettishness, because in the management of the business respect enough had not been paid them. This construction is very natural in strangers who do not know the Gentlemen. Others, even from the account of matters in the Memorial, have been disposed to suspect that the pet was more affected than real, and that some pretext was wanted for so sudden a change in their conduct, from patronizing to opposing every attempt at Union with all their might. This must have appeared to them the more necessary, as for some time they affected to be of the same sentiments as formerly. This affectation, however, seems now to be totally laid aside; and, I must acknowledge they move our compassion not a little, when we find them recurring to the old arguments which on former occasions had been employed against them, and which some of us have seen them treat with the utmost contempt and ridicule of which they were capable. They are conscious that we know this, and must feel themselves in a very awkward situation when compelled to fly to such topics. But it is time to have done. I am afraid, Sir, I have already exhausted your patience.

When the subject is, on one hand, such an imputation as would have been highly criminal, if true; and on the other a charge of false accusation, it is difficult for persons of any sensibility to preserve that dispassionate manner in which men of liberal minds always manage disputes on speculative questions, or such as concern the fitness of means to the end. And therefore

fore of all disputes we ought most carefully to avoid protracting without necessity those that are of a personal nature.

In regard to the more pleasant task, the vindication of the plan itself, ample justice has been already done to it by others. And of late the sum of the argument, detached from the altercation of parties, has been prepared by other friends of Union, who, for refuting objections, as well as supporting the scheme with solid arguments, have left nothing further to be wished.

ANSWER

A N S W E R

FOR THE

University and King's College of Aberdeen,

FROM

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| <i>Doctor</i> JOHN CHALMERS, <i>Principal,</i> | |
| <i>Doctor</i> ALEX. GERARD, <i>Mr. ROD. MACLEOD,</i> | |
| <i>Professor of Divinity,</i> | <i>Sub-principal,</i> |
| <i>Doctor</i> WM. THOM, <i>Pro-</i> | <i>Mr. JOHN LESLIE, Pro-</i> |
| <i>fessor of Laws,</i> | <i>fessor of Greek ;—and</i> |
| <i>Doctor</i> WM. CHALMERS, <i>Mr. THO. GORDON, Pro-</i> | |
| <i>Professor of Medicine,</i> | <i>fessor of Philosophy,</i> |

TO A

D E F E N C E

“Of the CONDUCT of MARISCHAL COLLEGE,
“in Relation to the present Scheme of UNION, &c.”
By a Member of Marischal College.

Addressed to that Member.

WE are so little desirous of protracting the present dispute with the Marischal College, into which they have forced us by their design of compelling an Union, that publications by us should have been at an end, if what you call a DEFENCE of the Conduct of that College, and which has been so widely and so industriously circulated, had not been really a *direct personal attack* on the reputation of some of us, especially one individual, whom you have marked so unequivocally, that you might, with equal delicacy, have given his name. In making such an attack, you, Sir, ought certainly to have given your own name, that it might be known which Member of the Marischal College is answerable for it. You all along point out the same person as the Author of

our

our Memorial, speak of the rest as giving too implicit credit to him, and are pleased to pay some compliments to some of us ; but we assure you, that we are all incapable of relishing any compliments offered at the expence of another, and avow that Paper as the *Memorial of us all*.

In it we had asserted what is perfectly remembered by all of us who were then in office, that when an Union was last in agitation, " A letter to the Marischal College from their Chancellor, the Earl of Bute, was read ; and it appearing " to be an answer to one written by them to his Lordship, " and that seemingly, in the name of both Colleges, fault " was found with their having written, without the privity of " the other College, on a matter in which both were equally " interested, and it was demanded that their letter should be " communicated ; but this was positively refused." It was naturally introduced, as showing that the separate and concealed manner in which the present project was begun, was wholly of a piece with that which determined us all to drop any further prosecution of the former scheme. From this, you take occasion to begin your invective against him whom you call the Author of the Memorial ; you affirm, " That he was then " a Member of the Marischal College, and knows what they " did as well as any man ;" call upon him to " speak out " what he knows," and infer that, " if every Member of the " Marischal College gave a refusal, the charge must extend " to him." He has no difficulty in speaking out, and he has full evidence of the truth of what he says. He was not a Member of the Marischal College, either when that letter was written, or when the communication of it was demanded : nor did he ever see it. He had been admitted in King's College, June 19, 1771 ; his resignation of his former office, of date the day before, stands in the records of the Marischal College : and the meeting at which the letter was demanded, we believed, from our recollection, when the precise date seemed not material, to have been in December thereafter, and find was really in January following. At this meeting, he joined with his Colleagues in demanding the letter, and in condemning the refusal to produce it.

Some days before the meeting, your Chancellor's letter was sent over by your Principal to the Principal of King's College, with a card, desiring to know what answer should be returned to it. In consequence of that card, the Principal
of

of King's College called together his Colleagues, and, at their desire, intimated, that we were willing to meet with the Members of the other College, but could say nothing of answering the letter from the Chancellor, till we saw the letter from them to which it was an answer. Notwithstanding this intimation, that letter, it seems, was not brought to the meeting; and there the communication of it was positively refused by the several Members of the Marischal College, and a great deal was said in order to shew that it was not necessary for us to see it.

We have said, that the letter from the Marischal College to their Chancellor, was "*seemingly* in the name of both Colleges." You take it for granted that this means, signed by the Principal of that College in name of both, and argue wholly on that supposition; a supposition which we think sufficiently guarded against by what we add, "written without the privity of the other College, on a matter in which both were equally interested" But the plain fact will shew, that, without any such supposition, we had good reason for what we said. His Lordship's letter excused his delay in answering, by the enquiries which he had been making, in the interval, concerning the manner of bringing into Parliament a Bill for Uniting the Colleges; it gave intimation, that only six weeks from the date of it (January 9, 1772,) would be allowed for private bills; and it advised our being ready by the beginning of February, about a fortnight after his answer could be received. It then appeared, and still appears, inconceivable to us, that his Lordship would have written in this manner, if he had not been led, by your letter to him, to think that matters were agreed between the parties, and therefore we naturally concluded this to have been the case. If it was so, your College must have taken upon them to signify the sentiments of the King's College, without consulting them, as well as their own; nay, what is still more extraordinary, must have taken upon them, to signify these sentiments before they were delivered, for the Plan of Union prepared by the Committee for a general discussion, had never yet been taken into consideration, either by a Meeting of King's College, or by a conjunct Meeting of both Colleges. A letter of such a strain was widely different from those (by which you attempt to excuse it) written by each Society to their own Chancellor, only begging his countenance, after a

Plan

Plan should be concerted ; and it clearly required the authority of both. If it was not of this strain, the production of a copy of it was the obvious way to show it ; the refusal, whatever was the reason of it, cannot be accounted for, either from the place of meeting, or from none of you thinking it of consequence, into which you wish to resolve it, for you had previous notice that we required a communication of it, and that refusal convinced as that our idea of its contents was just. This certainly put an *end* to that scheme for an Union ; it was only by beginning a new scheme, that an Union could be again brought into the field.

You observe truly, that “ we can say nothing but by information,” of what was done in relation to an Union, previous to the design being communicated to us. We always supposed that the public could not but understand us as doing so, and see that on every point, except its being communicated in confidence to some persons unconnected with either College, it must have been derived from you or your associates. Except two particulars, it was the very information which we were able to pick up at the annual meeting, by means of our questions, none of which related to any thing besides the measures which had been proposed or taken in order to that Union in which we and our University were most deeply interested : and whatever *related to this*, we are clear that we had the best right to be informed of ; nor can we conceive how the most delicate mind could possibly be hurt, in giving the readiest and the fullest information, unless he knew that it contained something with which we had reason to be displeased. If that part of our narration be not precise, it is the fault of our informers ; if it be guarded by alternatives, it only shews our scrupulous care not to go beyond our information. That it is strictly conformable to the information which we then received, all of us who were then present know and affirm : nor can we perceive that you contradict it, except that you dispute, whether what had past before that time, could be called, beginning a scheme of Union ; and that, in opposition to what we say of the design being communicated to the *members* of your College, you assert that it was not communicated *to the College*, that it was not *formally imparted to the Society*, that they were not then informed of it in their *Collegiate capacity*, as if our expressions were equivalent to these.

One of the particulars which we have above excepted, is that
a “ Royal

a "Royal Visitation had been proposed, and a Visitor named." This rests not altogether on the information which we were able to obtain at the general meeting, but partly on that given four days before, by a member of Marischal College to one of us, who affirms, that having called for that member of the Marischal College, in consequence of a message left for him, he was asked by him, if he had heard, (or what he thought) of Mr. Copland's operations (or some such word;) he supposed that member to mean some new piece of Machinery, (so perfectly was any thing relating to an Union out of his thoughts) and spoke accordingly. That Gentleman then explained himself, that he meant the Union, and said that their Chancellor approved of it, and was to procure a Visitation; that he had already settled the matter with the ministry, and that his brother Mr. Stuart M^r Kenzie was to be the Visitor. Of this measure he expressed his disapprobation in very strong terms, and declared that he would oppose it as much as lay in his power; on which the other indeed said, that, if we so much disapproved the Visitation, it might be left out.— How this could be, when matters had gone so far, was not explained.— After this; especially when we had likewise heard a Visitation acknowledged, at the annual meeting, as part of the conference at London with your Chancellor, and by none of you condemned or disclaimed as improper, but endeavours used to divert the conversation from it; and when we had been told, tho' not till that meeting was over, that both the Visitation and the Visitor had been already mentioned in confidence to extraneous persons, it cannot certainly appear surprising, that in writing our Memorial, we should have considered this measure as *concerted* before the annual meeting in September. You say, it was spoken of "not as a step in the procedure for effecting an Union, but only as one method of surmounting difficulties otherwise insuperable, in case they should occur:" the distinction is nice, and it will appear to be clearly *without a difference*, when it is but recollected, that one at least of the *difficulties* to be surmounted was the known fixed judgment of two members of King's College, against any Union whatever (if our having called them *a few* needs any apology, you will find one which should satisfy you in page 3d. line 12th. of your *own Outlines*).

The other particular, which was not picked up at the annual

annual meeting relates to what we had called a resolution of the Marischal College, "not to mention the subject to any of us till the annual meeting." You shall have the fact as it really stands. When one of us, the person whom you have been pleased to single out as the peculiar subject of your accusations, waited on the Principal of the Marischal College, they had a good deal of conversation concerning a Visitation, an Union, the first intimation, just now mentioned, of both to one of our number, and some other circumstances belonging to an Union. In the course of this conversation, the Principal mentioned the resolution formed by the Marischal College, and the communication made by the absent member ; but, that other person says, without any thing either in the immediate connection, or in the terms in which it was mentioned, that could lead him to restrict it to any single circumstance, or to a Visitation more than to any other circumstance, that had been the subject of conversation. In this situation he owns, that he certainly understood the resolution as relating to the Union in general, and from that moment till his reading your *Defence*, never had a thought of a different meaning ; and if he mistook, it was undesignedly and he must think unavoidably, except he could have divined the Principal's thoughts. Both parties will no doubt regret that there was no witness ; but this being unluckily the case, the above account of the matter must rest on the authority of the one party, and if the Principal shall say in contradiction to it, that he explicitly restricted the resolution to a *Visitation*, this must likewise rest on his authority, without any means of determining between the two : if he shall not say so, the matter resolves itself into an undesigned inexplicitness on one side, and a misapprehension, in consequence of that inevitable, on the other.—You assure us, that that meeting resolved to give information of the proposed Union to all of us, and that most of those present undertook to open the matter to some or other of us : on which we cannot help observing, how negligently the resolution was executed : for to four of us, at least, the remotest hint on the subject was not given by any one member of the Marischal College. What we had said, and all that we had said, of the resolution, as understood by us, was, that it looked like a design to take us by surprise and unprepared ; but this negligence plainly tended to

P

the

the same effect, and showed no anxiety to prevent it.—You acknowledge, page 5th, that that meeting agreed, not to mention a Visitation. You seem, however, to have forgotten this, when, speaking of our account of our conduct at the annual meeting subsequent to that, you say, p. 15. l. 30. 31.

“ In regard to the society, such a thing had never been *proposed* to them, far less *concerted* by them.” But that acknowledged agreement implies that, little as you were acquainted with a Visitation, or had examined all its consequences, you knew or suspected, without any information of our sentiments concerning it, that there was something in it which would disgust us, and as we knew and, we hope, have by this time proved, that a *Visitation as connected with an Union and for adjusting a plan of Union* is, tho’ in every light improper, of the most important consequence to all parties concerned, we neither then could, nor still can consider the concealment of it from us, as any “ indication that you meant to deal honourably and openly with us.”

We pass over your laboured gloss on what passed at the annual meeting, only desiring the reader to compare it with our Memorial, that he may perceive whether you really set aside the facts, or only put a face upon them: and proceed to the contradiction which you give, page 10. to our assertion that, “ the gentleman, who had brought forward the scheme “ said to two of us, that he thought it reasonable any letter “ to your Chancellor on that subject should be communicated “ to us, but could not answer for the society.” This circumstance appears to us, to be in itself of little consequence on either side, nor could we have had any motive to misrepresent it; on the contrary we thought it did credit to that Gentleman’s candour, and we mentioned it with that view. But, since it is denied, the person whom you are so anxious to accuse on every occasion, cannot but reckon it fortunate, that the assertion rests not on his sole authority, but likewise on that of the Gentleman who was along with him, the person whose testimony you, in that same page, own to be every way “ so unexceptionable.” This Gentleman concurs in affirming, that the person whom they addressed answered in “ the general terms” and in the very words “ employed in “ our Memorial,” and these two Gentlemen communicated this answer to us on returning from that interview. Neither of them remembers the answer which is now given in your defence,

sence, " that, in his opinion, no letter *affecting our rights and interests* ought to be written without our knowledge, and " that neither he nor, to the best of his knowledge any of his " Colleagues would think of writing what, in their opinion, " could have such a tendency : " nor can we see how it would have been an apposite answer to our request, unless he had first convinced these two Gentlemen, that our rights and interests were no ways connected with the subject of an Union, to which subject alone our request referred. Without this, it would have tended to make these Gentlemen believe that a letter concerning the Union ought in his opinion to be communicated to us, while it was meant only, that a letter concerning the Union did not, in the opinion of himself and his Colleagues, affect our rights and interests.

Your next paragraph relates to the proposals made by one of us to your Principal. Neither he nor any of us will dispute with you about the precise terms in which the proposals were made, but only observe that they were all confined to such letter as you might write to your Chancellor, *relating to the Union, and to what had passed concerning it.* When this is taken in, the first of them as stated by yourself, *that the Marischal College should send no letter to their Chancellor, which the King's College had not previously seen and approved,* cannot appear very different from a *joint Memorial by parties* : which is not uncommon, nor has ever been reckoned either ridiculous or improper. What you mention as the third, was made by the proposer in his own name, with a declaration that it was so, and that he could not say, whether compliance with it would satisfy his Colleagues. Soon after he reported to us all, the proposals he had made, together with the Principal's answer, to the very same purpose as you have given them. We all agreed, that nothing less than the communication to us of such letter as should be written by your College, contained in the second proposal, ought to satisfy us so as to prevent our sending our representation of the matter to the noble person to whom yours was to be addressed. You will not say, that the Principal's answer gave us assurance of the communication, nor so much as reason to expect it, but the contrary, and therefore we considered it as a *refusal*, and in our Memorial, where we thought it is unnecessary to enter into the detail, we called it (we all still think with reason) by that name. If the card sent to the Principal, called " his offer to lay

"our demand before the society, and to send their answer," something *proposed by him*, we cannot see the great impropriety of the expression. We believe it is the first time, that one party's desiring communication with the other, in order to prevent any misunderstanding concerning the information to be given; and after they had no ground to hope for such communication, their giving their own representation of the case, was ever painted in such colours as you (pages 11, 12.) endeavour to put upon our conduct.

Our deductions from the facts we willingly leave the reader to compare with your long examination of them; not doubting that his discernment will enable him to see, that the mode of proceeding is as real a part of a *scheme* of union, as abstract articles of a plan, to which last you wish (p. 14.) to confine the word; to see that our Memorial speaks of a Visitation as *proposed* at one period (p. 3.) and as *concerted* at a posterior period (p. 4.) whereas the force of your argument (p. 15.) depends on both referring to the same period; and to perceive that *any* members of the Marischal College then present, avowing the having acted in concert with some of ours as there described, is all that the words of our Memorial, p. 4. necessarily imply or that were requisite for our argument, and that we are therefore innocent of the *legerdemain* with which you charge us, p. 15, 16.

We cannot be of opinion that your Defence amounts to a proof of the present project for an Union having been begun with that openness towards the members of King's College, which, in a matter so deeply affecting its privileges and interests, they had a right to expect; and to which every person and every society is, in such a case, fairly entitled from every other. It was by a method perfectly the reverse that the Union of the Colleges at St. Andrews was accomplished, and that the Union of our Colleges was attempted in 1754: And all the private conversations and discussions in 1770, to which you oftener than once refer, must certainly appear very different from those conferences with persons of rank and influence concerning, not an Union only, but measures for overruling, if necessary, such members as should think themselves obliged to oppose it, which have taken place in the present instance.

You seem to be sensible, that you have not entirely preserved a *dispassionate manner*: A very soft expression for the spirit

spirit in which your *letter* is written. We feel, and we hope have shewn, that consciousness of innocence, joined to something of good temper, can preserve men calm under very great provocations.—But we acknowledge that the warmth which you and some of your associates have indulged, cannot produce in us any inclination to be united into one society with you : And we cannot doubt but it will convince most impartial persons, that an Union, in the present state of things, could not be conducive to the peace and harmony of the society, or to the interests of good education.

Since the above was written you have republished part of your *defence* in the Aberdeen Journal, with an alteration in that particular (p.2.3) which regards your Chancellor's letter ; and have annexed a *note* acknowledging, that you was mistaken in affirming the person whom you call the author of our Memorial, to have been a member of the Marischal College, when the letter to which that is an answer was written. The mere *mistake* as to the time, we should have thought not worth a remark. But on this mistake purely your own, you have built a charge against an individual, of conduct which, if it had been real, would have been base ; it was only after it was known, that he had to many contradicted the *fact*, that you thought proper to enquire into it, tho' you own that you had the easiest access to the means of ascertaining it ; before that time you had spread the calumny far and wide, farther than you can be sure that your retraction will reach ; even then you offer no apology to him for having groundlessly spread it ; on the contrary, in the very correction of it you couch insinuations that he is somehow or other blameable in that matter, though you cannot tell how ; you coolly observe what amounts only to this, that your original charge would have been just, if it had not rested on a matter of fact which did not exist ; nay you excuse your mistake, from our Memorial having, in speaking of what we then thought had happened in December, called the winter which certainly began in 1771, winter 1771, when we did not dream that any thing material could depend on the precise date, nor drew any sort of inference from it ; and on this handle you renew a *general* assertion of mistakes in our Memorial. If all this can satisfy *yourself* for the charge, now owned to be groundless, which you had brought against that individual, we believe it will

lead most others to suspect that, severe to others, you are very indulgent to yourself. We repeat it that you ought to have given your *name*. But henceforth we shall consider ourselves as at liberty to *despise* whatever is published against us, or any of us, without the author or authors being ascertained, and as entitled to expect, that no candid or impartial person will pay any regard to it. When you, however, reflect, that part of your accusation against one of our number, is already discovered by yourself to have rested on your mistake of a point of fact, and perceive in how small a degree he is peculiarly concerned in what is the subject of the rest of it, we cannot but think that it becomes you, for your own sake, to consider how you can best make him reparation for your attack.

IT BEING asserted in the above note, that this Answer was written before any correction was made in the Defence, it is proper to observe as a known fact, that the correction was made and in circulation, many days before a word of the Answer (whensoever written) was sent to the press; and, which is still more, before the author could know whether he would be honoured with an answer or not. He owns it is said, that he did not correct this error before he knew it, and does not doubt that the first discovery of it came from the other side. How far the person who complains of being calumniated, is vindicated by the correction made in page 2d. of the Defence (and consequently how far reparation is made to him) the impartial reader, on comparing the mistake with the correction, both to be found, p. 124, 125. of this publication, will be at no loss to determine. And to the judgment of the impartial, the author of the Defence, appears by his silence to submit the matter.

He is far from being backward in acknowledging mistakes, when either discovered by himself, or pointed out to him. He is charged in the Answer with having paid compliments to some of the members of King's College, tho' severe to others. If by compliments are meant insincere and flattering expressions of regard, he denies absolutely that he has paid a compliment to any of them. He said nothing but what he really thought at the time that he said it. He acknowledges, indeed, a propensity he has (some would call it weakness) to adopt the favourable construction in every doubtful case, which admits a favourable construction. This propensity,

penfity, he is fenfible, has fometimes before now led him into errors. In fuch errors, however, he is not pertinacious, but is, on further experience, capable of being convinced and corrected. As an evidence of this, he moft readily admits, that he has been in a miftake in regard to fome of thofe Gentlemen, for (tho' willing to think ftill as favourably of them as poffible) he fays, that if they had been what he believed them to be,—they had been incapable of giving their names to fuch a thing as that called ANSWER FOR THE UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE, &c. which, whether it will difgrace more them, the authors (he would not offend them again by faying author) or him, the fubject, he fays that he moft willingly leaves to the decifion of every candid reader. They have had recourfe to arms which are very dangerous, and are never employed without doing mifchief; for if they hurt not the adverfary aimed at, they never fail to recoil, and wound the hand that wields them.

As to his name, the pretext of his acting under concealment is manifefly frivolous. Who the author of the Memorial is, and who the author of the Defence, are alike known to every body in this part of the country. The latter, at leaft, fays that he has never difclaimed the performance imputed to him, nor made a fecret of his being the writer. On the contrary, he has freely owned it to every one who has entered on the fubject with him. Nay more, the perfon who complains of being attacked, is not more unequivocally marked in that paper than the author is. The particulars he has mentioned concerning himfelf, when taken together, are evidently fuch, as apply to no other perfon in the College; fo that if he be confidered as an accufer, he has, in this refpect at leaft, put himfelf precifely on the fame footing with the perfon accufed. And if this do not fatisfy, he has empowered his friends to fay, that he gives that gentleman liberty to announce both names to the world in as public a manner as he pleafes: for though that gentleman may forget dates, and even other material circumftances of facts, there are furely fome names that he muft remember.

But the author of the Defence not having thought proper to make a reply to their Answer, the publishers of this work beg leave to fubjoin a few things relating to the manner in which his fentence is accounted for by perfons on both fides. The friends of that author fay, that as the Answerers had thought proper to defcend from reafon and argument, to the vulgar arts of abufe and calling names, he could not think himfelf obliged to enter the lift with antagonifts who fought with fuch weapons; weapons fo little becoming

coming either gentlemen or scholars, and sufficient to bring dishonour on their cause itself, as well as on the combatants. This conduct was little to be expected from men who pretend to such delicate sensibility. They themselves are hurt by the words, * querulous and misrepresentation; tho' the former indicates rather a weakness of temper than any thing vicious; the latter is what by itself suggests no fault; for misrepresentation may be, and often is, the consequence of misinformation, forgetfulness, or mistake, while they scruple not to employ against their opponents, the words invective and calumny, terms which every body knows to imply malice and intentional falsehood. Those on that side of the question say farther, that when rash and ill-founded assertions are propped up (not supported) by new assertions equally rash and ill-founded, and of which no sort of evidence is so much as pretended to be adduced; to what purpose continue a dispute, which may be protracted as long as one party is able to assert, and the other to deny. As to what is said in the Answer in vindication of the reasoning of the Memorial, it is sufficient to refer the judicious to the papers themselves. But on this side it is acknowledged, that to do the Answerers justice, they seem to have little dependence on argument; more a great deal on those flowers of their rhetoric above specified; and more still on that tremendous parade of names and titles with which this most extraordinary production was ushered into the world from the press. The writer of the Defence, against such a formidable phalanx, appears even less than than the stripling David against the great Goliath. When all are placed in the front, and marshalled in due order, attended with the Insignia of their respective dignities and offices, as they are seen in that weighty performance, the aspect is at least as terrific to an opponent, as that of the champion of Gath, even with all the aid which his coat of mail, and helmet, and target, and greaves of brass, could give him. But dropping the simile, say they, how great a contrast do our two literary combatants present to indifferent spectators. One, in defence of the society to which he belongs, steps forth and exposes himself singly to all the rage of the enemy: the other, on the first onset, flies for shelter behind his party, and exposes them, or at least leads them to expose themselves to every danger in his defence. But if they be not by this time sensible, that they have in this cause sufficiently exposed themselves; it is to be feared that the world will not give them credit for that nicety of

* See the last paragraph of their Information.

feeling which they affect ; but will think it much more probable that they are become callous, and have no feeling at all.

But as on most subjects different men judge differently, there are who account in another manner for the silence observed at present by the *Defender of the conduct of Marischal College*. These tell us, that the invincible strength of reasoning, the modest circumspection in affirming, the undisguised clearness of expression ; but above all the elaborate particularity of vindication, by which the propriety and perfect consistency of conduct in all the seven gentlemen (ever since an Union of the Colleges was first thought of) is so happily illustrated, and fully proved, and nothing that had been urged on the opposite side being left unrefuted—that all these great qualities displayed in this unanswerable Answer, must have totally disconcerted the author of the *Defence*, and made him judge it prudent to retire from the combat, before his defeat (which could not be more compleat) should become more flagrant.

Between opinions so discordant, it would be presumption in us to decide.—We have delivered the sentiments of both parties, and must leave the reader to judge for himself.

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal.

Sir,

King's College, Jan. 6, 1787.

ABOUT three months ago, there appeared in your Journal, an *Information* from the seven Professors who opposed the Union, containing references to charters, acts of Parliament, and acts of Visitation, in the repositories of King's College. As some of these seemed liable to suspicion, I resolved to examine the documents themselves, together with other papers relative to the same subjects. In this I have met with great obstruction and delay. The gentleman in whose custody these papers are, whose obliging disposition is well known, has become on this occasion restiff and dilatory to an amazing degree. Three or four messages, sometimes six, are requisite to obtain the perusal of a single paper ; some, quoted in the *Information*, are refused, because they have not been deposited in the charter chest : some are said not to be extant : the new Erection it is pretended was destroyed in the beginning of last century : yet it is largely quoted in the *Information*, and Professor Ker was certainly in possession of a copy.

a copy. All inspection of the inventories is refused, with a manifest intention of creating delay.

From such circumstances, it appears, what opinion these gentlemen entertain of their own cause, since even to defend its outworks, they think it necessary to demean themselves, by such pitiful shifts.

Instead of a full examination, I beg leave to offer to any who may have read the *Information*, a few remarks by which they may judge of the credit due to the assertions it contains. The information asserts, that the Act of Parliament in 1633 ratifies the privileges of the College, *with express reference to the old foundations in 1505 and 1527*; whereas, the Act refers to the auld foundations datit in 1494 and 1497: that is, it confirms the Papal Bull instituting the University, and the Royal grant conferring civil privileges, internal jurisdiction, and the greater part of the endowments; but, it takes no notice of the foundation 1505, which contains the statutes of the University, enacted by Bishop Elphinston, in virtue of powers granted by the king for that purpose. These statutes are not confirmed by Parliament, but left free to be altered without the interposition of Parliament, by the same authority which enacted them, that is, by a commission from the crown. By such authority, they have been at various times altered, suspended, and restored.

As the dates in the copy of the Act 1633 are fairly written, these gentlemen can have been in no mistake; but it concerned their argument much, that the foundation of 1505 should be thought to have received Parliamentary ratification; for this is the *solemn deed* which they affect to hold in such absolute reverence, which binds them, (as they would have it thought) to oppose every interference of the crown or legislature in their affairs.

I too hold it in much reverence; and if these gentlemen have never violated the tenor of this foundation, some credit may be given them, for a mistaken, even for a superstitious zeal in supporting it. But, if they have again and again departed from the literal meaning of the deed, and the evident intention of its author—another inference will be made.

The information asserts, that in Bishop Forbes's visitation, *occasion was taken* from the Act of Parliament in 1617, to restore some of the suppressed offices. There is not the smallest foundation for this in the commission itself, or any acts they have

have communicated. The Bishop proceeds with full authority from the crown ; he takes no notice of any Act of Parliament whatever ; and *the occasion* of his interference is declared to be the mismanagement of Principal Rait, and the gross dilapidations which he had committed, by improper leases and sales of the College estate.

In all their publications, avowed and anonymous, they continually represent the Visitation of Colleges as an unusual and extraordinary measure, of an arbitrary nature, vexatious to individuals, and injurious, to the communities visited.—From what I know of the acts of Visitation in this and other Colleges, I am enabled to contradict such representations in the most positive terms.

Visitations are not unusual : from 1661 to 1706, and from 1716 to 1727, there appears to have been a series of commissions sitting, with hardly any interval, for visiting the Universities in general, or some one of the number in a particular manner.

Their proceedings have not been arbitrary or vexatious : even in correcting delinquencies the greatest lenity and moderation is shown : the flagrant case of Principal Rait is an example ; he is only compelled to refund, and that not completely ; he is neither deposed from his office, nor publicly censured, whatever his shame and vexation may have been.

It is much to be wished, that the proceedings of Commissioners of Visitation were better known. Their zeal to promote the interest of the Universities, with the advancement of learning and good education, joined to much vigilance in preventing the abuses which so naturally arise in public establishments, do credit to the character of the nation. It is a branch of the public care, exercised in a peculiar mode, with singular discretion and disinterestedness.

It is still more to be wished, that the regulations they have established were better observed. I mention as examples, the restrictions relative to the management of College Property, the Rules for teaching Courses of Philosophy, those for examination of Candidates for every Academical Degree, and the Method of filling up vacant Regencies, by Program and comparative Trial.

Visitations have never been injurious to the communities visited, but often beneficial : they have given occasion to the erection of new offices, and procured more ample endowments

ments of the old. King William's Gift, and Queen Anne's Bounty, seem both to have originated from the report of Visitors; the Colleges have been accustomed to apply to them for support and assistance on emergencies. The predecessors of these gentlemen have repeatedly made such application, and no longer ago than 1720. What reason then, can they alledge, for their aversion to submit to Visitation in the present times?

It will not be supposed, that they are liable to reprehension on any account, except it may be the management of the College Revenue, and if their own assertions are believed, they deserve much applause on that head: for, the accessions to their revenue "have been applied (they say) to every other purpose to which they were by the foundation applicable, in a *far higher* proportion, than to the augmentation of the salaries of the masters."

Many things are true, which seem not very credible, and so this assertion may perhaps be true; but certainly, it has staggered the faith even of their particular friends. As for me, I read it with amazement, for I conceive the reverse to be exactly true. To have applied these accessions of revenue to the other purposes, in the same proportion, as to the augmentation of salaries, is merely their duty, and might be looked for; but to apply them to those other uses, in a *far higher* proportion, is indeed generous and disinterested beyond expectation: it is marvellous, and to encrease the wonder, they resist a Royal Visitation, for no other reason that can be guessed at, but to avoid receiving from the highest authority, the applause due to such liberal conduct.

I understand, however, that this bold assertion is hazarded in opposition to certain proposals of mine for limiting the augmentation of salaries, for assigning some share of the additional revenue to literary academical purposes, and making better provision for Bishop Elphinston's Bursars, in terms of the Foundation.

On these heads, certain differences of opinion have taken place between us for some years past, but wholly confined to College Meetings and Records, before the month of October 1785, when an Union of the Colleges was proposed. The leaders of opposition to that measure, being greatly at a loss for pretexts to avoid entering into treaty concerning it, be-
thought themselves suddenly of this, and have contrived to

interweave

interweave it with that business, in a very extraordinary way, which they only can explain.

In their Memorial, they have taken upon them to say, that I pursue private purposes. While their Memorial was circulated in the neighbourhood only, I despised the imputation: it seemed unnecessary to refute, and still more so to retort the charge: those to whom we are known could judge for themselves, whether the author of that Memorial, or the person traduced, is most accustomed to pursue private ends in College affairs. But as their Memorial is now dispersed at a great distance, I call on them to make good their imputation, and to show what those private ends are, which I am supposed to pursue: and I propose that the Minutes of College Meetings relative to our differences may be printed, for the information of our respective friends. An hundred copies may be sufficient, and I am ready to defray one half of the expence. In making this proposal, I offer them no small advantage; for, using the privileges of a majority, they have always inserted in these minutes whatever they thought proper, and have excluded, postponed, misplaced, and garbled, much of what I wished to have been inserted.

The Seven Professors will readily know, by whom this offer is made, and shall have a private notification beside: to others, it may be sufficient to say, that this comes from

A MEMBER of KING'S COLLEGE.

To the PUBLISHERS.

GENTLEMEN,

UNDERSTANDING that you are about to publish a new edition of the Memorial, Information, and Answer from the seven Professors of King's College, I beg leave to bespeak room for a few observations, tending to set in a clearer light, the peculiar talents of the author, and the objects which he has been directed to aim at, or rather those which he has persuaded them to adopt; for it is very little doubted, that one person, no stranger to the arts of intrigue, *ipse doli fabricator Epeus*, leads them all along, some perhaps without knowing it; others by their own consent, while they hope to foil him at his own weapons;

Q

and

and some, which is most to be regretted, contrary to their wishes and convictions, contrary to their own more candid sentiments formerly avowed, and never yet expressly retracted.

In the first place, we must admire the address and ingenuity displayed by the learned writer of the Memorial and Information of the opponents of the Union, in the structure and composition of these remarkable papers. As their great object was to vindicate a line of conduct in themselves, which many thought perfectly indefensible, and to combat arguments that were supposed to be truly unanswerable, it required no ordinary portion of polemical skill to extricate themselves, with any tolerable grace from their perplexity. But one circumstance in which this skill most wonderfully appears, is the choice, and even the arrangement of *words*, which are sometimes amazingly well adapted to the *necessary* ambiguities of their argument. In many instances, they hold forth one obvious but fallacious meaning to the generality of readers, while another more agreeable to fact may be extorted from the words, and brought forward to be maintained as their only meaning, when occasion shall require.

The very title of their Memorial is an example. It is called "Memorial *from* the University &c." but since the pretension of seven Members to call themselves the University, in opposition to the Rector and other Members, has been refuted, they desire notice may be taken, that only the Principal and Masters have addressed the public, in the first and last paragraphs of that Memorial. The choice of the preposition, *from*, had prepared this evasion. Meanwhile it has passed as the Memorial *of* the University, and, *if in this they meant to deceive the public*, they have succeeded to their wish, especially in the more remote parts, where the dispute has been considered as between the Universities.

Another well devised ambiguity presents itself in page third—after stating that the design had been communicated to a second Member of the College, viz. Dr. D—who they understood entered warmly into it, they add, "*and superficially to a third, who did not.*" These few words involve a double ambiguity, one of the person, the other of the fact. Most readers have understood the Pro-

fessor

essor of Oriental Languages to be the person here spoken of, but it is the Professor of Medicine alone to whom it can be applied, and it has been generally supposed that he refused to enter into the design. He himself will not assert this, and all that the writer of the Memorial will maintain in his stead, can only be, that he did not enter into it *warmly*. The fact is, that the design was communicated to this gentleman even before Dr. D—— knew any thing of it, and he entered into it, if not warmly, at least with as much readiness as was wished for. About ten days before the annual meeting, he was desired to impart it to his uncle and to the Sub-Principal; he did so, and reported that they discovered no aversion to treat on the subject. A wish was hinted, that he would impart it also to Dr. G. but as he seemed to decline this, it was not insisted on. Let the reader compare these facts with their Memorial, and observe, even when cleared of it's ambiguities, whether it is calculated to do justice to them.

One other example may be singled out as pretty remarkable among the croud. Towards the middle of the *Information*, speaking of the Rector and his four assessors, they think fit to assert thus. "We know however, with "certainty, that *all* these five gentlemen, are very far "from either approving the present plan of Union, or "having no objection to their Outlines." Of an hundred readers, ninety-nine will understand *all* here, to mean every one, and it's being printed in Italics, seems to make that assertion more peremptory and emphatic. But this sense has been most authentically contradicted by the principal person of the five; and when full explanation was demanded, it may have been said, that *all* here means only some, a few, one or two of the number, and that the Italic character was employed to intimate this restriction of the meaning.

Much has also been said by them as to the powers of Visitors, but with all their dexterity, they have not here been able to avoid the most manifest inconsistency. When they address themselves to the friends of Union, they depreciate the powers of Visitors, as incompetent to any other purpose, unless to curb a Professor who gives trouble to a well combined majority. Addressing them-

selves to the public, and complaining that they are *attacked, injured, oppressed*, and dragged before a tribunal where they are very loth to appear, they represent these powers as *arbitrary and uncontrouled*, objects of just terror to academical repose, and exerted without *law*, or limit of their operations. But in this apparent dread of a Visitation, they certainly cannot be serious, for they have in another place assured the public, that they are well prepared for such an examination of their affairs, and that "*they have never entered into a single transaction, for which their foundation gives them not the fullest powers, and which has not been clearly for the advancement of the public revenue, and that the accession to it has been applied to every other purpose, to which it was by the foundation applicable, in a higher proportion than to the augmentation of the salaries of the Masters.*" Might not the public then conclude that their consciousness of this very liberal and disinterested conduct, would dispose them, on recollection, to wish for such a Visitation, rather than to decline it; that thus their public spirit and their good management might be honoured with due applause from the highest authority. Perhaps too, such a testimony might be thought requisite to confute any contrary surmises, and to suppress them for ever, in case their own bare assertion should be found insufficient for that purpose. At any rate the prejudices and suspicions which have for some time been entertained, have no doubt received strength from their endeavours to resist a visitation—tacit acquiescence might therefore have done more justice to that confidence in the integrity of their own conduct, which they seem to possess.

That his Majesty is Chancellor of King's College, they seem now to admit with some hesitation and reluctance, altho' in a pamphlet published by them on this very subject in the year 1755, they explicitly affirm that he is so, and even threaten an appeal to him from the supposed unfavourable decision of the respectable nobleman who was then sole arbiter of the question of the Union. Why should they now decline such an appeal, having no other chancellor? No powers annexed to that high office, or prerogative inherent in the crown, can in these days be supposed unfriendly to the interests of learning, or the advantage of the community. But they complain that the

the friends of Union mean to force and compel them. Can there be any violence in endeavouring to accomplish what they themselves, at least their leaders, always esteemed a very laudable purpose, by the interposition of the most dignified member of their own society, and even of the legislature itself? But the friends of Union take upon them to judge of what they ought and ought not to do—*Hanc veniam petimus damusque vicissim*—no doubt the friends of Union have formed their own opinion, and as it differs from that of their opponents respecting matters, in which their common interest, but especially that of the public, is concerned, they naturally wish to bring the question before competent and impartial judges for determination. Herein they probably think there is no presumption, nay they may feel it to be their duty. If in this situation the seven professors suffer any hardship, as they complain that they do, the friends of Union are surely not to blame, nor can the impartial perceive any real hardship to which these gentlemen are exposed, except that unfavourable opinion of their motives which the public must form, on comparing the plan of Union, which they now oppose, to that which they formerly devised and supported.

But they have farther suggested, that Visitors led by their own ideas, may invade the rights of private patrons, and transfer the offices in their gift to the University; a supposition unnecessarily made, palpably indecent, and altogether improbable. Will the experience of the elections made by their University, recommend that mode to the preference? They cannot think it in their own minds. Perhaps they rather apprehend, that Visitors more probably led by their enlarged views, may inquire into and restore the antient constitution and mode of election, in which the Masters of Arts are said to have had so great a share, thro' the *Procuratores Nationum*, elected by them after the model of the University of Paris.

At the end of the *Information*, they say they will continue calmly, firmly, and constitutionally, to defend the rights of their University, against any attack from whatever quarter. Is a royal Visitation any attack on their rights? From what quarter does it come? Have their predecessors ever set them the example of such resistance? They know what is asserted in the commission of Visitation

issued in 1716, "*ad nos indubitatum jus & prerogativa Visitatores Universitatibus, Academiis & Scholis, nominare pertinet,*" and will they take upon them to contravert the claim? Will they misapply the College revenue, bestowed by royal bounty in feeing lawyers, to contest a salutary, constitutional, and hitherto undisputed exercise of the royal prerogative.

They seem now to have renounced the argument derived from the advantage of emulation between rival and contiguous seminaries. They seem, for, *incedis per ignes suppositos cineri doloso*—it must not be positively asserted, lest any reservation lurk in their words, which may give a pretext for renewing it hereafter, and accusing their opponents of misrepresentation. It is time however that this unbecoming argument were consigned to oblivion, along with that from the national Union, which tho' at first their great bulwark, has never since been mentioned.

But why are they offended, if it be said, that they consider patronage *as money in their purse*? Have they not actually accomplished a transmutation of patronage into money, and a very considerable sum too? May it not very fairly be inferred from the high estimate they make of the patronage of their bursaries, that other profitable operations of the same kind are in contemplation? Has it not also been publicly asserted, that they have endeavoured to convert the patronage of their own offices into money, *for the benefit of their successors*? But they are silent on this head.

THERE is another observation that must have occurred to every person who has attentively perused the papers published by these seven gentlemen, which the friends to the Union, probably from motives of delicacy have overlooked, but which by no means ought to pass unnoticed. It is, that in all their manifestos, they seem to have two objects in view, the first, to muster up with singular industry every possible objection and cavil against the scheme in agitation, and the second, to recommend their own College to the public favour and patronage, in preference to the other; which by their account does not possess many advantages peculiar to King's College, for the pro-
per

per education of youth. Their having recourse to such methods of trumpeting abroad their own accomplishments, does nor indicate in them a very high degree either of modesty or wisdom, and can only be somewhat justified, from the necessity of the times. For it must appear not a little strange to those who are ignorant of the fact, that notwithstanding all these boasted advantages, there has been for some years past a much greater resort of students to their sister University. It was therefore perhaps necessary to give themselves and their College the best character they could, and to remind the public of many circumstances in their favour, that seemed to be in a great measure forgotten. Nor have their endeavours been altogether unsuccessful; for they have procured from the remote parts of the Highlands, where they could be most easily obtained, and from whence their seminary is chiefly *recruited*, many and ample *certificates* of approbation to their conduct. How far these people living at such a distance, hearing only one side of the debate, having but a small interest in the matter, warmly solicited by their friends, and many of them not knowing *what the inside of a College is made of*—how far they can be supposed competent judges of this or any such question, will appear from the *reasons* which some of them have been so imprudent as publish to the world. Do not these *testimonials* bear a strong resemblance to the *most authentic attestations* of *most wonderful cures* performed by certain *peripatetic practitioners*, who also most benevolently warn their deluded and incredulous countrymen, *to beware of counterfeits?*

But the opponents of the Union had very early taken care to prepare the way for obtaining such friendly testimonies; for in their *Memorial* (p. 6.) they observe that “the private gentry, the clergy, and the richer farmers, in “the northern parts and *Highlands* of Scotland—are not “incompetent judges, and have, *on all occasions*, very “generally disapproved of an Union, as to them *disadvantageous*, &c.” Upon what authority they have hazarded this last assertion cannot be conjectured; for it is only remembered that on one former occasion, about the year 1770, this Union appeared a most desirable measure to all these classes of people, having been preached up among them

them with great success, by some of those very persons who now oppose it—and were they yet to preach it up again, it would probably soon become as popular in the Highlands as ever.

BUT AGAIN, in the same page of their memorial, they farther mention as an argument with these classes of people, against the Union, “that the separation of the Colleges “gives a desirable choice between one situated in a *pleasant retired village*; where they are under the constant eye “of their masters, and the other in the middle of a *large trading town*.” To persons unacquainted with this place, there appears indeed to be here a very great local advantage in favour of Old Aberdeen, but when they are informed that the situation of the two Colleges is *not a mile distant*, and that *the pleasant retired village, is but a continuation, or rather a dirty obscure suburb of the large trading town*, where would gentlemen expect to find the most proper company and accommodation for their sons, or which would they esteem the most eligible seat for an University? With much the same justice may the *Gorbals* be said to be a *pleasant retired village* in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, or the delightful retreat of *Hogsdon* in that of London.

Another specimen of their best wishes to exalt their alma mater above her younger sister, occurs in the *Memorial* (p. 6) where it is said, “the former (i. e. King’s College) have a large revenue, under their own management, “and an extensive and valuable patronage, not only of bursaries, but of offices. When the latter solicit an Union, “they should have something to offer for a participation in “all this; but they have *nothing*, for their revenue is little “above one-half, and they enjoy no patronage, *except of “a few small bursaries*.” With regard to the revenue of Marischal College, it has been shewn in the *Reply* to the Memorial of the other party, that it is at least on a footing with what they thought proper to represent theirs to be in the year 1770, and probably still is, unless they have some secret appropriations of revenue, of which they do not chuse to inform the public. As to the patronage of bursaries, the assertion in the above quotation, if strictly taken, is tolerably just, tho’ at the same time it may mislead an ignorant reader to imagine, that there are only a
few

few small bursaries for students belonging to the Marischal College, which is by no means the case. For they have upwards of sixty in all, besides those for students in Theology, which it is believed, are more in number, and many of them of far more value, than any at King's College. Of these about fifty are disposed of, in the course of four years, by public competition, while the remainder are presented to by their several patrons. The only other circumstance of difference is, that the College are not patrons of the greater number of these bursaries (as is the case in Old Aberdeen) which is attended with this inconvenience, that they have it not therefore in their power to make a partial distribution of them, or by selling the right of presentation, to employ them as money in their purse.

I shall only take notice of one other passage in the *Memorial* so often quoted (p. 8.) which appears to me one of the most remarkable in the whole of that elaborate performance. After mentioning the libraries of both Colleges, the author proceeds to say, "The King's College has a museum handsomely furnished *equal perhaps to any in the kingdom*, and always increasing. The Marischal College has an Observatory; by the like means as it was erected, *it may be improved; and an Observatory is subservient not so much to the academical course, as to general observations or discoveries.*" The author at first affects here to represent the two Colleges as on a footing of equality, they have both Libraries, the one possesses a Museum, the other, to balance that advantage, has an Observatory, but that his own may still preponderate, he says that this Museum *is perhaps equal to any in the kingdom*, while the Observatory still requires to be *improved*, and is at best by no means so useful or necessary an appendage to an University. From this representation, the reader would be naturally led to conclude, that there was no Museum belonging to the Marischal College, whereas it is well known that they have already a very considerable collection for the study of Natural History, *which is always increasing, and is perhaps equal to that of King's College*, and therefore, by the clearest Mathematical deduction, *equal perhaps to any in the kingdom.* We are also well informed that the gentleman best acquainted with that Museum, laughs at the lavish and ignorant encomium they have bestowed upon it. Were it

it worthy of it in any degree, it were cheaply purchased, 20l. being the sum originally allowed by the College, and not more than other 20 or 30l. expended in providing cases, and fitting up the apartment in the course of 16 or 18 years. As to the *splendid Observatory* of Marischal College, if it be not *much subservient to the academical course*, it cannot be owing to any need of being improved, as the *Memorial* insinuates, for chiefly by the liberality of one distinguished patron, it has already been furnished with every instrument that was even wished for by the society. The many elegant models and excellent apparatus for teaching Natural Philosophy, stand nearly in the same predicament; for the rival University having nothing to balance these, the learned author of the *long Estimate* has the candour to represent, that *they may become* even positively hurtful to the academical course—and thus according to that sagacious reasoner, the studies of practical Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy, as being unfriendly to the *principles* of these sciences might as well be banished, from our Universities.

Among other impotent attempts to injure the reputation of their sister College, might also be mentioned an obscure critical work, said to be called *an Examination of a Memorial of Dr. Blackwell*, advertised as publishing six months ago by *some tool or hireling of the opposition*; but besides its being too ridiculous to merit serious attention, the *sage femme anileis*, from motives of pure compassion both to the mother and child, is said to have very prudently strangled it in the birth. The object of it was said to be no less than to prove, that the Marischal College is not an University, and the modest champion and trumpeter of King's College, in his *precious estimate*, has not scrupled to publish the same *foolish, ignorant and malicious assertion*, altho' as usual with him, contrary to his former creed—and notoriously contradicted by the foundation charter, and repeated acts of parliament confirming it—by solemn decisions of the supreme courts of the kingdom—and still more, by the uninterrupted exercise of all the privileges of an University for near two centuries.

Such then are the boasted advantages of the King's College as enumerated by it's seven Professors, and they have no doubt judged these sufficient to give them a decided

ed superiority over their presumptuous rival, otherwise they might have added several others, particularly the singular endowments of some of their members, who find themselves qualified to teach in rotation the whole circle of the sciences—a practice which the degeneracy of all the Professors in every other Scots University, has long since made it necessary to relinquish. But some of these are so well deserving of consideration, that they shall be left for more particular discussion hereafter. It may however be observed that altho' a Popish Bishop and his Monks founded King's College with the pious view of *instructing* and *civilizing* the Highlands of Scotland, as fully explained to us in the late costly production of his Calvinistic Dutch Commentator, it does not appear, for all the peculiar excellencies of it's constitution, teachers, and system of education, to be now esteemed adequate to these useful purposes, even by those very persons for whose benefit it was intended. For besides that many of them have always, *and especially of late*, been inclined to prefer the neighbouring protestant seminary, with all it's imperfections, the Gentlemen of the Highlands have a very judicious scheme in agitation, of farther relieving Bishop Elphinston's College of the burden and labour of *civilizing* their youth, by establishing one more convenient for themselves at Inverness. When this wise institution shall be fully carried into effect, or even if it should not, the *expediency, justice* and *legality* of an Union of ours at Aberdeen will probably appear a little more clearly, some years hence, to the seven discerning Gentlemen who now oppose it—when their walls are become desolate, and the axe is laid to the root of the tree. See St. Matthew iii. 10.

But that this paper may not run out into the length of an *Estimate*, we shall conclude with a few *critical* observations on the various epithets that have been or may be given to the one party or the other. It must then be allowed, that the members of King's College who wish to promote the Union are *Dissenters* from the *Seven Professors* who oppose it.—On the other hand, these seven must allow that they are *Dissenters* from the majority of both Colleges taken collectively; that they are *Seceders* from the cause of Union and academical improvement, to which they formerly adhered! that in this respect they might perhaps

perhaps also be named *Renegades* and *Apostates*; and with regard to a scheme intended for the public service, they are become obstinate *Récusants*. In the language of the last age, they might be stiled *Malignants*, and that appellation might be justified in a certain degree, even in these times, by the acrimonious aversion which they are pleased to express, to their being united into one society with their brethren. However that may be, to do some of them justice, it is believed that their present animosity chiefly arises from false alarms, and transient interests, the pique and the caprice of one or two, not of the whole. All these therefore, in the event of an Union, might soon be forgotten. Their opponents ought readily to forgive all the false arguments and frigid sophistry, which an abuse of excellent understandings has mustered up against the Union, and wholly to forget whatever any of the *seven gentlemen*, in the heat of dispute, may have advanced contrary, not only to what *they thought they knew*, but to that, in which they must have known, that they could not be mistaken.

E. M.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

SIR,

YOU lately inserted a letter from Aberdeen concerning a dispute between an old lady of this place, and her younger sister. I suspect it is the old lady herself who has written the account, or at least some of the oldest clerks in her house. She has long carried on business of a very respectable kind, but she herself says it is only a kind of Coblery trade, and ought to be carried on in the same way, on the same principles, and for the same end; to make a little money. Nay, she sticks not to avow, that if her sister had not opened a rival shop next door, she would have made the country contented with much worse wares, than she is now obliged to give them; for she thinks that even *Brogues* may do very well with those who have been used to go *barefoot*.—She is besides, a very cunning old woman, and much addicted to backbiting and abusing her neighbours, particularly her sister; but it is in a clandestine way

way and by insinuation, for she has not much courage in scolding aloud.

A scheme has been lately proposed to her, by which both she and her sister might be enabled to serve the country in a much better manner, but she, somewhat lazy by age, and obstinately wedded to old fashions, refuses to join in it, and wishes to raise a clamour, as if her sister had formed a plan for robbing her of some part of her property. She is indeed somewhat richer than her sister, tho' not so much as she would have it believed; nor is her money all thought to be honestly come by; but at present she has no reason to fear any attack upon her fortune. An anxiety on that head is one of her old diseases, and her best friends have always wished, that she would take a little more care of her reputation, and a little less of her purse.

You may judge of her cunning arts, by the hint which she has contrived to make you publish, that the scheme is intended to prevent young Journeymen from going to Edinburgh to perfect themselves in their trade; whereas the true object of it is to awaken in them a greater desire of compleating their education in all it's branches, of Boots, Shoes, and Slippers, for which Edinburgh must always be the principal school—tho' this old woman has long pretended “that there are as gude *Beets* and as gude *Sheen* made in the Auld-town of Aberdeen as in a' braid Scotland again.”

If she should write again, consider well what she desires you to publish, for a suspicion has got abroad that she is somewhat disordered in her mind; one symptom of which is, that although far gone in a *consumption*, she has sent for her *attorney* and feed him, to keep the physician from entering her house. This indeed appears a very bad symptom considering her attention to money, and that the physician instead of taking a fee for his *visitations*, has more than once left large sums behind him. She has also taken it into her head, poor woman, that a stout young journeyman of her sisters has an intention of *ravishing* her, which God knows, at her time of life, she has no reason to dread. Yet she cannot help tormenting herself with this and other apprehensions equally imaginary, for she sometimes likewise raves about having twice *almost* committed the sin of

Perjury, and talks of her being set in the *Pillory*, or banished to one of the *Orkney Islands* which she calls *Siberia*—tho' she has in truth more need to be sent to *Corcyra*.

Such is the melancholy state of this unhappy woman, which truly excites the compassion of all her acquaintance; for with all her faults, she has her good qualities, and many people have a regard for her, as being upon the whole a very well meaning good sort of body. If you are one of her friends, I wish you would advise her to keep her temper, and take the opinion of her neighbours about this scheme of a company trade with her sister, which is evidently for their own advantage and that of their customers.

I am Sir,

Your's in all modesty as becomes

MARGARET MARSHAL.

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal.

Sir,

A N Union of the King's and Marischal Colleges has been long considered, by many, as a very desirable event; and several attempts have been made to bring it about, particularly in the year 1756 and 1770; and as it appears that some very material, and I hope, effectual steps have been taken of late to accomplish it, as a well-wisher to the scheme, I beg leave to offer to the public a few hints on a subject, which, as connected with the education of youth, cannot be looked upon with indifference by any man who has the welfare of his country at heart.

There cannot be a doubt, that the founders of these Seminaries had it in their view, to make the education of youth as complete as possible, and that the institutions were by them contrived as the best and most effectual for promoting that end. Few will be disposed to doubt, that men of such liberal sentiments were also very competent judges of the proper mode of carrying on a liberal education, according to the state of Literature in the age in which they lived. But science is daily advancing, and for many years past its progress

progress has been so rapid, that no fixed mode of teaching the different branches could possibly be adhered to, in any Seminary whatever. The method must be changed from time to time, to keep pace with the numerous improvements in such sciences as were not formerly known and taught; and some entire branches we must allow to be totally new, but for that reason not less necessary to be taught in Universities. I believe there is no public teacher of experience, who will not readily own, that if he had not altered his course of lectures, but obstinately adhered to the set he first composed, they must have become very unsatisfactory to himself, and of little utility to his pupils. From such necessary alterations in the mode of teaching, adopted gradually, without the appearance of any great and sudden innovation, except in one instance, the whole has been so far changed, that we may safely say, it has, within these forty years, been completely new modelled in these two Colleges; and yet the Professors have never thought that they were acting contrary to the intention of the founders, but rather fulfilling it. The instance I allude to, is that change in the Marischal College introduced in the year 1753, by which the Professors were fixed to particular classes, and the order in which the sciences were to be taught was likewise materially altered. An account of this was given to the public at that time, with the reasons for it, and after so many years experience, both masters and students are perfectly satisfied of its propriety. Alterations therefore, in the mode of teaching in all Universities, are so far from being incompatible with the constitution of such seminaries, that they are absolutely necessary to their answering the end proposed by them. I will not undertake to combat the hackneyed arguments which have been used in all ages, against reformations of every kind; but if an invariable adherence to ancient institutions reckoned venerable, were insisted on, and allowed to stand in the way of real and confessed improvement, both these Colleges should be turned back to teaching, in Monkish Latin, the Scholastic Logic and Cartesian Philosophy; a revival of ancient modes, which, I suppose, no scholar would wish to see. The present proposal of an Union of the two societies, by means of which, instead of two seminaries, on their present footing very imperfect, one respectable University may be formed, is no doubt a plan of innovation greater than

any that has hitherto taken place ; but the reasons for it appear to me so strong, that altho' some of them tend to expose the defects of academical education in this part of the country, I will state them with freedom, trusting that I run no risk of giving offence to the learned and liberal-minded Professors of either College, whose interest and consequence I most heartily wish to promote.

The Academical Course, altho' it might have been very well adapted to the state of science at the first institution of these societies, is surely too contracted for the present enlightened age. It must indeed be allowed, that the Professors in both Colleges have done all that lay in their power to make their particular courses of lectures as comprehensive and instructive as possible : but, in pursuing one object, they have perhaps by degrees lost sight of another, of the greatest consequence to the state of literature, and that is, the proficiency of their students in the learned languages, particularly Latin. Formerly, the academical language, throughout Europe was Latin: the lectures on Logic, and such branches of science as were then taught, were all in that language, and every oration and examination, both public and private ; and nothing else was allowed to be spoken. I am far from supposing that the language used was always classical, perhaps seldom perfectly so, but this constant use of Latin made it necessary for all Students to be in a certain degree proficient in that language, before they entered the College. None were allowed to forget what Latin they had learned, but all must rather improve in it ; especially such as attended certain of the Professors who were remarkable for speaking it with fluency and elegance, within the memory of many still living. Reading the Latin Classics was attended with no difficulty, to any who had enjoyed a regular academical education. Before the different sciences received so many modern improvements, it was not a difficult matter to teach them in Latin ; accordingly it was long the practice, and most of the books published on these subjects in the beginning of the present century and later, were in that language, as is well known to all scholars. But a very great number of the new discoveries in all the sciences, cannot be expressed in Latin for want of terms. Teaching in English must for this reason be introduced, and for the ease both of Masters and Scholars must become very speedily general,

general, as we know has happened. Yet Latin still continued for some time to be considered as the academical language in a certain degree, and tho' the teaching was all in English, the examinations, public harangues, and language of the public school, were still Latin. But it was soon found out, that if boys are taught in English, it is a hardship to examine them in Latin, and if they are neither taught nor examined in Latin, it is even a hardship to make them compose harangues in Latin; and accordingly this is with great difficulty kept up, and has been long a just subject of complaint to all well-wishers of classical erudition, that the knowledge of Latin is wearing out, and I am perfectly satisfied that the principal cause of its decay is the disuse of the language in colleges. If students at college have so little occasion for it, the boys at grammar schools, young as they are, will soon find out that very little of it is necessary. Their parents, who cannot in all cases be supposed competent judges of the importance of classical learning, and from that most pardonable weakness, a desire to see their children advance, wish to have them, at an early age, put to College, are too ready to give way to this, and accordingly we see boys put to College, who from their age, and improvement in Latin, ought to be no farther advanced than the third or fourth class of a grammar school. I will venture to say that the Greek Professors of both Colleges find it now necessary to be at pains to explain the Greek Grammar to their students, a large proportion of whom could not otherwise understand the language of it. Many complaints have of late years been made, of the mode of education at the grammar school in Aberdeen. Granting these complaints to be well founded, there are some alleviating circumstances in behalf of the teachers. So little progress in Latin is now thought necessary to make a boy fit for the College, that he may pass directly from any class of the grammar school he pleases, to either of the Colleges, as they stand at present; and perhaps the greater disgust he takes at application and study, the more he will be disposed to take this step, because at College he is much more his own master, the courses at all Colleges being necessarily so ordered, that the student (supposed of a proper age and degree of proficiency) is to carry on the principal part of his studies at home by his own application, the professor pointing out the subject, directing the manner, and explaining the difficulties.

Sometime ago a year was cut off from the usual attendance at the grammar school in Aberdeen. I appeal to such masters of the Marishal College, and grammar school, as can remember the old establishment, whether this measure has been attended with any good consequences. Boys come to College a year sooner, if that be any advantage, and however much the term of attendance at the grammar school were shortened, many would be disposed to shorten it still farther, by deserting to the Colleges from the inferior classes, to the evident prejudice of the school and its discipline. Under these disadvantages it is rather surprising that the boys at the grammar school make the progress they do, and that they make very considerable progress, is evident from their performances at competitions for bursaries, a most impartial trial, and an annual check upon the teachers of Latin, both in town and country, and perhaps without which the knowledge of the Latin language would very soon totally perish.

The competitors have of late years been uncommonly numerous, but will any judge of the matter, who has seen ten competitors, say that the knowledge of Latin is gaining ground with the rising generation? I do not blame the present set of Professors in either of the Colleges; I believe they are as unexceptionable in their different departments as in any such seminaries whatever. I know they are all hearty well wishers to classical learning, and many of them possess it in an eminent degree; but I still assert, that the daily-increasing decay of classical learning in this country, is chiefly, if not solely, owing to the present defective state of these two Colleges. Are the Professors to be obliged to teach in Latin as formerly, in order to remedy this? The present state of the sciences will not admit of that, and some classes are so material to many who are not scholars, that they must be open to all, and therefore necessarily taught in English. Should any of them now pretend to teach in Latin, they would not be understood, and their classes would be immediately deserted. Are they to refuse to admit students who are not sufficiently instructed in Latin? That is not to be expected on the present footing. Are they to teach Latin in their several classes? it is not their business, nor have they time to spare for it from the other parts of their course. Those of them who are most zealous friends to
classical

classical learning, may well recommend it to their students, and assure them that it will afford them an inexhaustible fund of rational and elegant entertainment and instruction; but all that is in vain; few of their students are in condition to be convinced of this, and still fewer will be found possessed of that determined application necessary to make them classical scholars, especially under the disadvantage of having been very imperfectly taught to read Latin. Some may say, all this should be done at grammar schools, but these labour under the disadvantages already mentioned: and who are the teachers of these grammar schools? generally young men who have had their education at one or other of the Colleges; and on the present plan it may be fairly made a question, whether it can be supposed in the power of such teachers to bring classical learning into repute. I have confined myself to Latin, for as to Greek I will boldly assert, that it never was introduced into the north of Scotland. In both Colleges there have been for many years, Greek Professors of unquestioned abilities, and that they have been not only well qualified for their station, but also wonderfully assiduous, is evident from the progress their students make in the short time (5 months) allotted for the study of that language. All that even the most diligent students can acquire in that short space, is utterly insufficient to make reading Greek any thing short of a drudgery hardly to be submitted to at that age; and accordingly even among those of learned professions, an acquaintance with the Greek classics is an accomplishment confined to a very small number, and has ever been so in the north of Scotland, and ever will be so, in the present state of the Colleges. Perhaps a neglect of that language may rather increase; for we see many of the students satisfied with a still more moderate portion, acquired at some country school, from teachers of any sort. This evil, the decay of classical learning, arises not from the gentlemen who fill the academical places, but the defective state of the seminaries themselves, whose rivalry, instead of producing any good to the public, has had that unhappy effect which we often see produced by rivalships in commercial matters; the commodity is indeed supplied in greater plenty, but of a much baser quality. In my opinion this is only to be remedied by an Union of the two Colleges on a proper plan, some of the
numerous

numerous advantages of which, and the great necessity there is for it, I shall endeavour farther to set forth in my next, if this meet with a favourable reception.

PHILOMATHES.

LETTER II.

Sir,

IN what particular manner the evil mentioned in my last, might be remedied by an Union of the Colleges, I do not pretend to direct, but that it might be done, if an Union on a proper plan were brought about, I think will not admit of a doubt; and that it never will be remedied upon the present plan, but will in all likelihood continue to increase, seems equally evident to all who will consider the matter with the attention it certainly merits. Having dwelt so long on this head, considering how much it is probable your paper may be occupied by others capable of treating the subject to much better purpose, I shall not at present take up more of your time in pointing out other defects. That there are none, I believe will not be advanced by any judge of education, who knows the course at these Colleges; and that these defects may be supplied by enlarging the plan, and by that means only, I think requires no arguments to prove.

The most obvious advantages must arise from the proposed addition of Medical and Law Classes to the University. Of pupils attending the different Physicians in this place there are generally upwards of thirty, a sufficient number to give a very decent commencement to the intended Medical Classes, and there is no room to doubt they would readily attend them, from the commendable avidity with which they receive any attempts to instruct them, when a subject for dissection casually occurs. The late Doctors Gregory and David Skene did indeed, in the year 1758 open Medical Classes, the one for Anatomy and Physiology, and the other for the elements of Chemistry and the practice of Medicine, which were of very great utility to those who attended them: but notwithstanding the deservedly high reputation of these two gentlemen, their endeavours did not meet with that encouragement which might have been expected,

pected, owing entirely to certain unlucky differences, subsisting at that time among the Physicians here, who rather discouraged the scheme in general, and some actually prevented their pupils from attending. This therefore can afford no argument against the high probability of success to the present proposal, as I am authorised to say, no such differences now subsist among our Physicians, but all will be ready to give their countenance and assistance to so useful an institution. As little can it be urged, as an argument against the practicability of the plan, that the Botanical and Chemical Classes have not met with encouragement in any degree proportioned to the acknowledged abilities and merit of the teachers. These are no doubt branches of consequence in a medical education; but unless they are accompanied with others, no great success is to be looked for in attempting to establish them in that detached way; and the want of a Botanical Garden is an absolute bar to one of them. Had the Founders of these two Colleges, instead of making them as complete as they could at their institution, only founded one or two Professorships for single detached branches, however useful, it is to be supposed these would have been very little resorted to, and had very little good effect. The success of a Medical College depends entirely upon as many branches being taught as possible; and the more complete the institution at its commencement, surely the better. Upon enquiry, I am happy to find, that if the Union take place we shall immediately have classes opened for Anatomy and Physiology; Theory and Practice of Medicine; Clinical Lectures; Chemistry; Botany, and Midwifery. The expence of boarding in Aberdeen is so much less than at Edinburgh, that many young men come here for that reason, from all parts of the north country, to receive a medical education, although the only advantages they enjoy are from the Infirmary, and the opportunity of attending some of the Philosophy Classes during their apprenticeship, and surely many more would come, if there was a Medical College here. Of the whole number bred to Medicine at Aberdeen, not one third can easily afford to go to Edinburgh for education, even for one session, but must rest satisfied with what they can acquire during an apprenticeship, chiefly from their own reading under the direction of their masters, seeing a very little private practice, and attending

tending the Infirmary for three years ; with no better education, it is well known that in time of war great numbers are appointed surgeons mates, in our Fleets and Armies, and have the lives and limbs of our most valuable subjects in their hands ; and there can be no question that they would be much better qualified for their very important charge, if they had the advantage of such an education as this institution would furnish them with. I do not pretend to say that such a College would render an attendance at Edinburgh unnecessary for the complete education of a Physician ; but even to those who could afford afterwards to go to Edinburgh, it must be a very considerable advantage, to have had a previous view of the different branches, even altho' taught in a much less perfect manner.

The teachers too would improve by practice and encouragement ; and it is hard to say what degree of eminence such a College might in time arrive at. That of Edinburgh now the first in Europe, took its rise from small beginnings not very many years ago.

Courses of Scotch and Civil Law make also a part of the proposed plan ; and I need bring no arguments to prove that such an institution is very much wanted, and must meet with encouragement from the public.

Many may say, all this is visionary, and that it would be wrong to give up the advantages of the emulation between the two rival societies, for a prospect of the barely possible success of a Medical and Law-collegé added. I do not know any advantage that can arise from such emulation. I rather suspect it affords a temptation to the practice of certain less liberal methods of filling classes which can have no great tendency to raise the estimation of the Professors in the eyes of their students.

That these additional Classes would have success we have the example of Edinburgh and Glasgow to prove to us. The Medical College of Edinburgh is a very recent addition to the University ; and notwithstanding the vicinity of Edinburgh, both the Medical and Law Colleges of Glasgow are well attended, and in high character. All these flourish, and long may they do so ! for they are of such acknowledged benefit in their present state to the Universities, and to the kingdom in general as well as to the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, that I believe it would be impossible to convince

any

any man that these Universities would be improved by having their Medical and Law Colleges suppressed, to make way for rival seminaries, where Greek, and the very same branches of philosophy might be taught, within a mile of the old Universities, in order to keep the Professors to their duty.

These are my sentiments; and I have given them, I hope, with candour and impartiality, without regard to the interests of the one or the other College, or of any individual members; for I can never consider the interests of such societies as separate from those of Literature in general, and their utility to the public.

As to the manner of bringing about the desired Union, let better judges determine it; but to me it appears to be the interest of the public to take every possible method to accomplish it.

PHILOMATHES.

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal

Audi alteram partem.

Mr. Printer,

YOU have entertained us for some time past with the projected Union of the two Colleges of Aberdeen. An advertisement from the King's College modestly requests the public, only to suspend their judgement of the propriety or impropriety of such a measure, until they receive information on both sides of the question. The zeal of one party has already prompted them, in two advertisements, and in a printed plan of their intended Union, to say not a little in support of their favourite scheme. Many people of all ranks, fond of novelty, and captivated by whatever is specious, seem, with great keenness, to have adopted the sentiments of that party. A gentleman, who, in your Journal, takes the signature of Philomathes, tho' he seems not to deal much in argument, has urged several plausible things in favour of an Union. But to my great surprize, tho' I have often heard this Union reprobated in conversation, no person has published any thing in opposition to it. I doubt not but the Principal and

and his six Professors, as those who oppose the Union are ironically called, will, in due time give an ample vindication of their conduct to the world; mean while I wish to show, through the channel of your paper, that the projected Union of the Colleges has not yet met with universal approbation. I shall first consider the advertisements of both parties, and next, the merits of the cause.

What is the purpose of the advertisement of the King's College? Does it say any thing disrespectful of the gentlemen who favour an Union? No. It only states "that a petition to be subscribed by the noblemen and gentlemen of this country for procuring an Union of these two Colleges, had been framed and circulated without their knowledge, that they conceive the scheme to be improper &c. that they cannot but consider it as an attempt to surprise persons into a subscription, on a representation by one party;" and therefore concludes with what every impartial person must consider as a proper and a reasonable request, "that noblemen and gentlemen will candidly wait information from both sides, before they give their names to a project, which so deeply affects the rights and interests of their University." What is it in this advertisement that Professor Ogilvie and the Marischal College oppose? Read their advertisements, and you will find that they do not deny a single fact mentioned in it. Do they then appear in opposition to the request with which it concludes? No; they cannot surely mean to put candour so much to the blush. The truth is, they seem to be afraid, that from the manner in which the facts are stated in the advertisement of King's College, the public will be apt to form conclusions, by no means favourable to them or to their views, and accordingly they set themselves in opposition to these imaginary conclusions.

They represent their opponents as *complaining* "that an attempt for obtaining an Union of the two Colleges, has has lately been renewed without their knowledge, or any communication with them." It does not appear to me, in reading the advertisement from King's College, that there is in it a single word that favours of complaint. I can understand the writers of this advertisement, only as stating a simple fact, as a reason for that request with which

which they conclude. With the reasons of this fact, the parties themselves, but not the public are concerned.

The Gentlemen of King's College tell us that they conceive that plan of an Union, a single copy of which had been transmitted to their Principal, is "improper and even impracticable." The reasoning of the friends of the Union in opposition to this idea would seem to fix upon their opponents, the charge of glaring inconsistency, and indeed to exhibit their conduct in this affair, as in the extreme ridiculous. To me however it appears to be very inconclusive. Where is the absurdity in gentlemen supporting one plan of an Union as proper and practicable, and opposing another, as improper and impracticable? Or is there any thing strange in one supporting a plan with keenness, and afterwards, on circumstances being changed, or on his coming to the knowledge of more circumstances, changing his sentiments? The celebrated Dean of St. Patrick has asserted, that to acknowledge a mistake is only to confess, that one is wiser to-day than he was yesterday. Until we hear the gentlemen who formerly supported and now oppose an Union of the Colleges, even the members of the Marischal College cannot, unless they pretend to the gift of inspiration, venture to affirm, that Principal Chalmers and four of his Professors have not had good reason to change their sentiments, and therefore to alter their conduct. But the former put the question, "Does any person think it necessary to exert himself for preventing the execution of what he is convinced can never be executed?" I never fancied that they opposed the execution of what they are convinced can never be executed. That would be to suppose that they are fools. But I can find nothing marvellous in asserting that they oppose measures, which, though they cannot accomplish the end they have in view, may give them a great deal of unnecessary trouble. Professor Ogilvie quotes with pleasure, what he calls "the very pertinent expressions of Principal Chalmers in his memorial on this subject on a former occasion, when he favoured an Union." These expressions obviously tend to represent the head of his College as guilty of the grossest inconsistency. How this charge may be obviated, I have already attempted to

S

show :

show : but say, ye gentle spirits, is this pleasure of the purely benevolent kind?

The gentlemen of the Marischal College affirm, that the object of their petition is not to ask an Union, but "that his Majesty will be pleased to appoint visitors, to inquire into the propriety and practicability of such a scheme." I heard lately of some discontented members of the College of Glasgow, exhibiting complaints against the society to which they belonged, and on account of these, petitioning, tho' without success, for a visitation of that society, but till now, I never heard, that one College petitioned for the visitation of another, quite distinct from it, and altogether unconnected with it. As well might the College of St. Andrews petition for a visitation of the Marischal College, upon the supposition that an Union with it, would be for the interest of education, but I am persuaded that respectable society would not thank any person, for supposing them capable of such an absurdity. If the gentlemen of the Marischal College wish to have education at their University conducted on a more extensive plan, their best method, I humbly think, is to represent the necessity of such an improvement, to the public who are to reap the benefit of it, and to petition them for a subscription, to found what additional Professorships they think proper, and I am persuaded that the gentlemen of King's College will not attempt to counteract the influence of such a petition. If there is any thing like a legal petition for a visitation of King's College, it must be so, not as subscribed by the members of Marischal College; but as subscribed by two individuals of their own society, and by such of the public as are interested in the education of youth at that University.

They farther animadvert upon their opponents for affirming, that the printed plan of an Union, "was attended with a very imperfect representation of facts relating to their conduct." They tell us in return, that "many particulars were suppressed, from motives which those present at the meeting ought rather to respect than to censure." Mr. Ogilvie affirms that "some particulars of their conduct have been omitted, and others touched with a gentle hand, probably lest a more perfect account might give to some of them more vexation."

If

If these expressions have any meaning, they seem to me to insinuate that the conduct of the gentlemen who opposed the Union, at the meeting referred to, was in some respect exceedingly censurable. If a more perfect representation of facts would have given vexation only to some of them, why was Mr. Ogilvie so unjust as to leave the charge general among the whole? Could a general charge give them less vexation than a particular one? If this is true, they must indeed be insensible to shame. For my share, I consider the man who says in general that my conduct, if exposed to the world, would give me vexation, or that I ought to respect the motives of those who concealed it, as an enemy who more successfully injures my character, than he who publicly declares in what respects I have been to blame. The one draws his weapon in the dark: I know not for what part the blow is intended. The other attacks me in open day: I see my danger, and can stand upon my defence.

As to the remarks of the gentlemen of the Marischal College on the following expression of those who oppose the Union, "they cannot but consider this as an attempt to surprize persons to whom the petition is presented into a subscription on a representation by one party," I shall only observe that those who have subscribed it, have done so, without receiving any information from the other party, and that those who presented the petition to them, intended that they should subscribe it with such information, otherwise they might have begun by publishing their petition and their opponents would then have had it in their power before it was too late, to state what they chose in opposition to it. If this is "an accusation" no "printed plan" with which they accompany the petition can perfectly refute it, unless that plan communicates the reasons for which Principal Chalmers and his party now oppose the Union. I am sorry on this part of the subject to observe by the way, that the Magistrates and Town Council of Aberdeen on Wednesday last, were pleased unanimously to approve of the scheme, for Uniting the King's and Marischal Colleges, and resolved to support it accordingly. Had they not reason from the advertisement of Principal C. and his adherents to expect information on their side? It is a pity they should have decided in a cause, on the re-

presentation of one party only, when they were told that the other had not deserted the diet? Those who subscribed the petition before the advertisement from King's College was inserted in your Journal, could not be supposed to know that the Principal and his six Professors, were to give any information on their side of the question, or that the plan met with so numerous and respectable an opposition; but those who subscribed it since that time, cannot plead ignorance of that circumstance.

Mr. Ogilvie concludes his advertisement by observing, that what is advanced by his brethren, is calculated to convey an idea, that the two Colleges are *entirely* opposed to each other. If this had been the intention of his opponents, they would not have said 'the Principal and six Professors,' but 'Principal and Professors of King's College having learned,' &c. How he comes to say that they are not the University of King's College, they are wiser than I who pretend to tell. If I receive a sentence against me from a majority of seven to three of a court, their want of unanimity in the cause will not prevent the world from affirming that such a sentence is the deed of the court.

The Marischal College 'regret the delusion of their brethren and the too warm conduct of their opponents,' and represent them as men who oppose 'a measure, which they cannot but be *sensible* would prove of essential service to the education of youth, to the prosperity of the University, and to their own reputation.' If they really, and consistently with their knowledge oppose the interests of education, of the society to which they belong, and of their own reputation; what idea shall we form of their integrity? Are they deluded, and at the same time sensible of the impropriety of their conduct? By what maxim in philosophy shall we discover the solution of this riddle? I am really ashamed when I think, that such as these can be the sentiments of so respectable a society as the Marischal College of Aberdeen. Without subjecting myself to the painful task of animadverting farther upon them, I shall only submit to the public, which of the two advertisements favours most of heat: and judging by these advertisements, from which of the parties they have reason to expect the most dispassionate information. In a question so

deeply

deeply interesting to the public, as that relating to an Union of the Colleges, those who do not mean to become the dupes of a party, will surely suspend their judgment until they hear and candidly weigh, what the gentlemen on both sides have to say upon the subject. I doubt not, Mr. Printer, but your impartiality will lead you to give this a place in your Journal. If I am not anticipated by some person better qualified to discuss the subject, I shall soon communicate to the public, through the channel of your paper, my sentiments on the merits of this debate. I cannot however promise that they will perfectly coincide with those of either party. X. X.

Q U E R I E S

Relative, to the proposed Union of the King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen.

WHETHER it is not evident to every impartial person, that an Union of these Colleges upon the general plan offered to the public, will not only conduce to the advancement of Literature in the North of Scotland, but also by reason of the present necessity of sending young men to distant places for their education in Law and Physic, be a means of preserving the *Morals* of youth, and saving *Money* to parents?

Whether there is ground to believe, that they who oppose this Union are influenced by liberal and disinterested principles, and a sincere desire to promote the interests of learning?

Whether the articles of this Union, and the whole frame and constitution of the United College, will not be best settled by a *Royal Visitation*? And whether any of the present incumbents in one of the Colleges, have *personal reasons* for opposing this measure?

Whether in the proposed erection of the United College, the Professors of Greek and Latin are to be obliged to keep, and the students to attend, private Classes? Whether this would not tend to the classical proficiency of the latter in these fine languages, and whether a Prolongation of the Session of College, would not contribute to the same end?

Whether Private Classes, and the length of the College sessions, may not be assigned as the causes of the present high reputation of the University of Saint Andrews, next to the talents and assiduity of the professors?

Whether it is intended, that there should be a Professor for the Scots as well as the Civil Law? and whether Medicine is to be taught by separate Professors in all its capital branches, so as to form something nearly resembling the Medical College at Edinburgh?

Whether it is proper that the members of the King's College should retain the privilege of electing themselves: or whether it would not be attended with more beneficial effects to the public, and be productive of less disquiet and animosity among the academical body themselves, to throw this privilege entirely into the hands of the Crown, which, as matters now stand ought to be the fountain of *offices* as well as of honours?

Whether such a surrender might not be executed with full as much legal *propriety*, in a manner as consonant to the will of the Founder, with as little violation of the oath of fidelity and with more public, tho' perhaps less *private* emolument, than the sale of their patronages and superiorities lately made by that College?

Whether, from the salaries of the professorships proposed to be suppressed, and the savings to be made by that most excellent scheme of a sinking fund, an endowment should be settled upon some well qualified person for giving lectures on *Practical Husbandry*, and the best method of improving a farm?

Whether the instituting a professorship of this kind, unknown in other Seminaries, would not do much honour to the United College, and prove of more real service to the community, than many of these frivolous, contemptible arts that are so eagerly cultivated such as, singing, fidling, dancing, spouting, declamation, cookery, hair-dressing, and the like, for all which there are *Schools* and *Professors*, but none for agriculture, the most useful of all arts? "*Sola res rustica, quæ sine dubitatione, proxima et quasi consanguinea sapientiæ est, tam discentibus eget, quam magistris.*"

Whether it is not probable that the royal visitors will examine very minutely into the present state of both Colleges, the modes of education, the course of prelections, the management of the revenue, its application, improvement, or dilapidation

lapi
ries
dui
V
nob
of t
fess
labo
lect
shall
T
nati
it is
to t

Add

I. V

tions
existe
repu
tion
is th

II
establ
Engla

II
fidere
Briti

IV
four U
portie
burgh
be not
there,
land?

V.

lapidation from time to time, the condition of the public libraries and museums : and into the abilities, learning, and assiduity of the masters, in the exercise of academical functions?

Whether it is not probable that the Royal Visitors will *ex nobili officio*, declare it to be essential to the future œconomy of these public seminaries, that neither Principal nor Professors be on any pretext excused from residence, from active labour in their vocations, or from giving a regular course of lectures in some department of science : and that *sinécures* shall be everlastingly abolished in the University?

These queries, which the framer has not leisure or inclination to mould into the form of a regular essay, but which it is thought will answer the purpose, are humbly submitted to the consideration of the public, by

*A friend to learning, and tho' no member,
a well wisher to both Colleges.*

Additional Queries, relative to the proposed Union of the Two Colleges.

I. **W**HETHER it be necessary to be profoundly versed in ancient Records, Charters, Titles, Foundations, &c. in order to collect this general truth, that the existence or toleration of *Sinécures*, in public seminaries, is repugnant both to the letter and the spirit of every foundation ; and that the advancement of learning and the sciences is the ultimate end of all academical establishments?

II. Whether it would not look like a burlesque on public establishments, to assert that there are *Two Universities in England*, and that there are *Two* also in *Aberdeen*?

III. Whether the two Colleges of *Aberdeen* are not considered as *one* University, in the whole tenor of Scotch and British statutes?

IV. Whether the Royal Bounty, or annual grant to the *four* Universities of Scotland, be not allotted in equal proportions to St. Andrews, Glasgow, *Aberdeen*, and *Edinburgh* ; and whether the fourth part of the Royal Bounty be not divided between the King's and Marischal Colleges there, as representing *one* of the *four* Universities of Scotland?

V. Whether the *University of Aberdeen* is not declared, by

by a British statute, to be entitled to a copy of each book entered at Stationers Hall; and whether, in the construction of that statute by the supreme Court of this country, the Marischal College was not allowed to participate in that privilege?

VI. Whether also it was not expressly ordained, that the books from Stationers Hall, tho' deposited in the Library of King's College, should be kept in separate presses, with distinct catalogues, for the benefit of the Marischal College, to whom those books are declared to be accessible *de jure*? Is not the common right of property, authorised by the statute, thereby recognized and vindicated?

VII. Whether, in the reign, of Charles the First the King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen were not actually united into one University, called the Caroline University?

VIII. Whether the solicitude testified by certain Members of King's College to resist a Royal Visitation, be not in itself, a strong presumptive argument for the expediency or even the necessity of that measure? And whether their letters addressed to the Secretaries of State, and other men in power, will not as certainly be construed to their prejudice, as their late application to a distinguished Nobleman, has been attended with consequences diametrically opposite to their wishes?

IX. Whether it be in the power of sophistry to delude any man of common understanding into the opinion, that the Plan of Uniting the Colleges of Aberdeen, for the purposes of acknowledged public utility, is contrary to any article in the national Union of the two kingdoms?

X. Whether it might not be maintained by parity of argument that the denying the authority of Aristotle, or the discontinuance of the Logic of the Schools in these public seminaries is an *abominable* innovation and diametrically opposite to the state of the Universities in Scotland at the time of the national Union?

XI. Whether the Union of two Colleges in St. Andrews, be not exactly parallel in many respects, to the Union now proposed at Aberdeen, and whether it was even alledged that the *national* Union interfered in the most remote degree, with that salutary arrangement, confirmed and ratified by a British Parliament?

XII. Whether if all the Members of both Colleges in

one general confederacy, were to resist every plan of improvement, and to deprecate a Royal Visitation, it ought not to be granted at the desire of the nobility, and others of distinguished rank, who call for it so loudly on the present occasion ?

XIII. Whether of some writers on this subject it may not be pronounced, in the language of the *celebrated Dean of St. Patrick's*,

‘ Their arguments directly tend

‘ Against the cause they would defend ?

And whether the friends of the Union ought not to retain some such men to write against it ?

XIV. Does not the University of King’s College consist of fifteen members in all ?

XV. Are any more than seven of these engaged in opposing the Union ?

XVI. Are these seven all of one mind ?

Queries to the Querist, concerning an Union of the Colleges.

DOES he not know that many have always reckoned an Union of the Colleges hurtful ? and by what right does he pronounce these *not impartial* ?

How can he know the secret principles by which they who oppose the Union are actuated ? With what face does he, without entering into their hearts, insinuate that they are *illiberal* and interested ? Might he not with equal justice have discovered *private* views in some of those who favour it ?

Whether the best way of settling the private and sacred rights affected by an Union, be to subvert them by the arbitrary power of a visitation ? If an Union be the real object of that visitation, what *personal* reasons can they who disapprove an Union, have for opposing a visitation ? If its real object be something else, what fairness is their in holding forth only that ? Whatever be its object, are not some of the favourers of an Union, at least equally obnoxious as any of those who oppose it ?

Does he not know that, in the King’s College, the Professor of Humanity is already obliged to keep a class for Latin Grammar, Poetry and Rhetorick, and that the students attend

attend him for four sessions? If he neglect not his duty, can classical learning be wanting in that College?

Is he ignorant that the King's College, for years, attempted a prolongation of the session, and that the consequence was, its being nearly deserted? And how could an Union remove the poverty of the country, or render parents more able and willing to support the expence of a long session?

Whether law gives not the members of the King's College as good a right to the patronage of their offices, as Querist has to his purse? And whether any thing but *despotic* power can take away the one or the other? How the will of a Founder who expressly allows both to sell and sell, can be transgressed, or an oath of fidelity to his foundation violated, by selling either the superiorities or patronages which he vested in them, and which brought no advantage to the College? With what justice can raising a revenue from these for the perpetual benefit of their successors, and the public use of the College, be called selling for *private* emolument? Or is this really as little for the common good, as surrendering *gratis* a privilege of which they can make the most important use?

Which of the Colleges is it that has applied part of its revenue to promoting *singing, dancing, hair-dressing, &c.*? If neither, what connexion has other people's cultivating these contemptible arts, with the Colleges perverting their revenue from the Professions for which it was mortified, to other professions?

If a Visitation would make all the great reformatations which the Querist supposes, why is it asked, not for these, but for a wholly different purpose? If it was really intended for making these reformatations; whether they, whose concurrence with the petition was asked, should not have been fairly told so?

Whether, by their not being told, an attempt has not been made, to draw in Noblemen and Gentlemen to become unknowingly informers or accusers against individuals of both Colleges?

What is the proper denomination of a person, who professing to be a well-wisher, throws out insinuations concerning men's secret motives, things of which he shows himself ignorant, and things in which he is palpably mistaken?

CROSS-QUESTION.

For

For the Aberdeen Journal.

Mr. Printer,

YOU are desired to insert in your Journal, the Foundation Oath of King's College, with the concluding Paragraph of its foundation, along with the translation of the same, which accompanies them, for the benefit of those who do not understand Latin.

CONSCIENCIA.*Foundation Oath of King's College.*

In introitu vero, receptione seu admissione cujuscunque nostræ Foundationis, ante omnia idem recipiendus seu admittendus, *in facris Dei Evangelij* juramentum præstabit corporale, hæc nostra supra & infra statuta & constitutiones inviolabiliter observare, singula privilegia dicti Collegij defendere, commodum & utilitatem ejusdem juxta posse suum procurare.

Concluding Paragraph of the same.

Postremo, inhibemus, præcipimus & mandamus in virtute sanctæ obedientiæ & interminationis summi judicij, ne quisquam nostræ Foundationis, cujuscunque ordinis, status gradus ac eminentiæ existat, ad quemcunque statum pervenerit, contra has nostras constitutiones, privilegia, exemptiones, directæ vel indirectæ, seu quovis alio quæsito colore, venire præsumat; dispensationes seu rescripta aliqua a Romano Pontifice, seu aliquo alio privilegiato, vel per se vel per alium adversus hujusmodi erectionem, seu Foundationem, in toto vel in parte, nullatenus petat aut impetret, per se vel per alium, quantum in eo vel in ijs est, ab alijs impetrari non permittant, sub pæna **PERJURIJ, INFAMIÆ ET INHABILITATIS.** Ad quæ perimplenda, omnes & singulos præfatos in nostra Foundatione, jurejurando astringi volumus: quod juramentum, a Principali dicti Collegij rogatus, si præstare quisquam recusaverit, nullatenus admittatur aut recipiatur, sed ejus Bursa, tanquam vacans, alteri idoneo præmissa perimplenti provideatur.

Foundation Oath.

Every member of my Foundation shall at his admission, lay his hand on the *Holy Gospels*, and take his body oath, that he shall inviolably observe all my statutes and constitutions expressed above, or that shall be added in the after part of my foundation, that he shall defend and maintain all the privileges of the said College, and procure its interest and advantage to the best of his ability.

Concluding

Concluding Clause.

Lastly, I order and command, as they value their sacred duty and obedience, and dread the threatnings of the last day, that no member of my foundation, of whatever rank or dignity, shall presume to contravene directly or indirectly these my constitutions, or infringe the privileges and exemptions granted by me, under any colour or pretence ; or ask or obtain the Pope's dispensation from this my erection or foundation, in whole or in part, under the pain of PERJURY, INFAMY AND INHABILITY. And my will is, that all the before mentioned members of my Foundation shall bind themselves by oath to fulfil all these things ; which oath, when tendered by the Principal, if any one refuse, he shall not be admitted or received, but his office given to another fit and willing to fulfil the premises.

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal.

Mr. Printer,

THE request of the seven members of King's College, that the public would suspend their judgment upon the proposed Union, till both parties should be heard, was unquestionably reasonable, and many have waited *their* arguments against the Union of *our* Universities with patience.— A memorial on *their* part has lately appeared, which I, as being entirely unconnected with either University, have considered with candour. But am sorry to say, that so far as I can judge, *that* publication deviates widely from the point in hand, which I conceive to be simply *this* : *whether the Union would or would not be productive of public advantage?* Instead of demonstrating the negative, the Memorial is chiefly composed of personal reflections against the gentlemen of Marischal College, for the methods, which it is said, they have taken to bring the matter under the view of the public: And altho' the Memorialists do not seem to controvert *their* former concurrence in a plan of Union, the utility of which to the public was not conspicuous, and where *self-interest* in the framers was obvious, they now refuse to listen to the suggested Outlines of Union, because they were not fully consulted in every measure taken by the gentlemen of the Marischal College to effectuate the end in view, tho' at the same time, they

they had peremptorily refused to concur in *any* plan of Union whatever. There was nothing unalterably fixed by the Marischal College ; and if the plan of Union suggested is a good one, why not concur in it ? Is it of any moment to *the public* who were the *original* movers of the scheme ? If it can be shown to be improper, the proposers will surely listen to any improvements either made by the seven members of King's College, or others. The public at large have certainly nothing to do with things entirely personal to all or any of the professors, either of the one University or the other, nor whether any of them have or have not been ill used by the others, yet I am sorry to observe, that complaints of this kind form too great a part of the publications which have appeared on one side of the question. In regard to the Memorial of the seven members of King's College, so far as it touches upon the *alleged injustice* or impracticability of the proposed plan of Union upon *particular* considerations, I will only beg leave to make one observation. No man holds the rights of *private* property more sacred than I do ; but I cannot admit the idea, that the gentlemen of King's College are the *patri- monial* proprietors of that institution or foundation, so as to bar the *public* from improving the institution if it can be done. The members of that or any University are only *tenants for life* in endowments for *public utility*, which therefore are not their *freehold*. I hold the *University itself* to be the property of the *public*, and that they have a right to model it, so as to answer the MAIN design of the institution and *general* utility. It will hardly be denied, *that* will be done by teaching those branches of literature, which the *generality* think most necessary and proper, tho' perhaps these branches were not in such estimation at the *original* foundation of the College. When I speak of the public, I would not be misunderstood ; I mean the *legal representatives* of the whole people, joined with the Sovereign, in Parliament : And I think, it admits of no doubt that they are invested with the necessary authority to render the Union of the Colleges effectual, if convinced of the propriety of it. I hold it at same time equally plain, that none of the gentlemen now in office in either University can in justice be deprived of his present state : *So far* they have a right and *freehold* ; but beyond their own lives, they have none : and if I am not mistaken, the proposed scheme of Union proceeds on *this principle*.

T

That

That the interests of learning in general would be advanced by an Union formed on *proper* grounds, and by encreasing the number of branches to be taught, does not seem to be controverted, and indeed cannot *seriously* be. As to medical classes, I am no judge ; but as I know, we have many medical students, and every advantage possessed at Edinburgh particularly an excellent infirmary, in which these students might see the practice, as well as learn the theory of their profession, I cannot help thinking these classes would be well attended, and that in a little time, they would become highly beneficial to this corner of the country, by keeping at home, at least some of the money annually sent to Edinburgh.

As to law, I have had the best opportunities of knowing, that at least one class for it is much wanted ; and, that it would succeed, the example of Glasgow proves. *That* city is much nearer Edinburgh than we are, yet their law class is constantly numerous and respectable ; and I can see no reason why ours should not be so too. We have more courts, and a greater number of young men bred to the law, than they have at Glasgow ; but for want of a law class at home, our young men are obliged to go to Edinburgh to study, where the expence of attending one session of College exceeds that of two here. If our students had such an opportunity of studying law as a science at home, for a sufficient time, the advantage to the public is too obvious to need illustration ; as they would be acquainted with the *theory* and *principles* of their profession, before they attempted the (otherways dangerous) practice of it. I say this, from my own experience, and the deepest regret of having wanted so useful a branch of education, as a regular law class, and from a pretty intimate acquaintance with the sentiments of many of my brethren on the same subject. The Society of Procurators here (to whom this is a matter of great moment) have long viewed it in the light I have stated. They are ashamed of the state of many of their present apprentices from whom the society must receive its recruits, and dread the consequences to the public at large. For this reason, if a law class is once established, I have every reason to think, that the judges, with their concurrence, will render it an indispensable requisite to the admission of procurators, that they shall not only have had the common academical education, but shall have also studied

studied regularly in our own, or some other Law Class, for at least one year.— This indeed is often the case at present ; but our young men are obliged to go to Edinburgh to study : —and it has been a matter of deliberation with several members of the Society of Procurators here, even before there was a view of a Law Class being established at Aberdeen, whether it would not be proper to make a *by-law*, obliging candidates for admission to produce certificates of regular study. And indeed, from all appearance, such a regulation will soon become necessary, even if the present scheme of the Union of the Universities should fail.

I have already said, that the number of young men bred to the Law in this place is not inconsiderable ; and if a regular class was established, that number would probably increase, as Country Gentlemen, who at present send their sons to Edinburgh to study the law, altho' they never intend them to follow it as a business, would prefer keeping them at home under their own eye, and at half the expence, when at same time they saw that they could learn the theory of the Law (now considered as useful to a country gentleman as Hebrew or Greek) as well at Aberdeen as in Edinburgh. In short, if the plan of Union take place, so as to render a Law-Class permanent and certain, it is impossible it can fail of success.—I know a good many young gentlemen at this minute, who would gladly become students of Law, and who, for want of a class, are obliged to form little societies for their mutual improvement in that science. And I can see no reason for thinking that a regular class for the study of it would ever be unattended in a city and country so populous as this now is—— For this reason *alone*, were there no other, I should certainly wish well to the proposed Union of *our* Universities. I am, sir, your humble servant,
Aberdeen, 38. Aug. 1786. A PROCURATOR.

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal.

Sir,

I Observe in your last Journal a copy of the Foundation Oath appointed by Bishop Elphinston, and published by the gentlemen of King's College, as an apology for their opposition to the Union.

No doubt *they are surprized* that these scruples did not occur to them, when they agreed to the plan of Union in 1754, and submitted to arbitration, whether the very buildings of the College should not be razed to the ground;—and again when they agreed to the plan of 1770, in which far greater innovations and changes were proposed than at present:—or when they actually sold their patronages annexed to the College for ever, and solicited certain other sales in 1767, and concluded a late transaction.—Yet some may think, that if they kept in view the Founder's great purpose of promoting Learning, and good education, and if they proposed only such changes as the Legislature, the Paramount Trustee of all such foundations, should approve, no trespass could be committed.

Indeed, had they tampered with the funds of the society, or introduced such changes as though profitable at present, might impair the value of these Funds in future times, *that* were a contravention of the great clause, "*contra commodum & utilitatem collegij*," which is in all circumstances perpetually binding, and to which the tenor of the oath is now confined.

Since however they are suddenly become scrupulous, and since they now incline to maintain the very *Letter* of the foundation above its *spirit*, shall we not see masses for the dead renewed, the choir restored, the perpetual lamp lighted, and the processions duly performed? for these are no small part of the institutions, which the pious Bishop intended, by the last clause of his deed, to secure even beyond any dispensation from the Roman See.

The law perhaps has prohibited some of these, and thereby obstructed the farther augmentation of salaries, which as they seem to think is the prime object of the foundation. But no law has prohibited, no expence attends the use of the *habitus doctoralis cum apparatu*, or the constant use of Latin and French in all their teaching and conversation. These are anxiously and repeatedly enjoined by the founder, and the practice though troublesome, may be requisite for the ease of their consciences.

Your obliging correspondent Conscientia is requested to translate also the following passage from the foundation of King's College, which immediately follows the first, to which he has done such ample justice. "In horum autem receptione

receptione, electione seu admissione, non interveniant supplicationes, seu munera quorumcumque sub poena damnationis eternæ, et districti iudicii interminationis: Quod si pro quocunque tales seu talia fiant (quod absit) decernimus talem inhabilem ad quamecunque bursam aut præbendam in nostro Collegio obtinendam, ex tunc et in posterum." B.

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal.

Mr. Printer,

THE opponents of the Union of the Colleges have hitherto said but little of the evils to which the public may be exposed, if that project takes effect, although these be neither few, nor small, nor difficult to be pointed out.

The establishment of a *Law Class* will increase the number of *pettifoggers*, and encourage *quarrels* and *lawsuits*; for which there is no occasion, as we have the character already of being sufficiently litigious.

The *Medical School* will increase the number of practitioners, and consequently the number of *diseases*, real or imaginary: For it is the interest of every practitioner to fill the minds of his acquaintance as much as he can with the latter; and by creating these in a proper manner, he will soon produce abundance of the former.

In order to obtain *chirurgical patients*, the students will stir up *riots* and *bloodwits*.

A *Chemical Laboratory* is apt to catch fire, and may involve half the town in a conflagration.

The *Botanic Garden* will occupy ground at present employed in the culture of *cabbages*, and raise the price of that useful plant. Besides, noxious weeds and poisonous plants are cultivated in these gardens; the seeds of which may disseminate and propagate, and become an insufferable nuisance to the country.

From the number of practitioners in Law and Medicine, the *fees* in these professions will *fall*. I am astonished at the want of discernment in the Physicians and Advocates, who give a very ample and unanimous approbation to a scheme so prejudicial to their interest.

It has often been remarked that education is *too cheap* in Scotland,

Scotland, and that many attend a College who would be better employed at the plough. Why then attempt to make it cheaper? Indeed, as education at our College is at present conducted, it does little harm: For many a student (whose expence is perhaps defrayed by a bursc) returns from the College almost as fit for the plough as if he had never been there. But if conducted on a more extensive plan, and continued longer, it will leave so effectual an impression, as to unfit him for the plough for life.

VIGIL.

QUERIES respecting ANOTHER QUERIST.

IS not the Rector of King's College invested with powers like those of the Rector of the University of Paris? Has he not a negative on all proceedings whatever, even on conferring degrees, if he chuses to exert it? Can any thing be valid which he calls in question? In particular, has he not an absolute controul over the revenue and funds? Is there not a certain very important resolution of the society concerning their revenue, which, having been lately called in question, was vindicated by the opposers of an Union, chiefly, or rather solely, on the footing of its being approved by the last Rector?

Is it not the practice of the University, that all business of importance should be laid before the Rector for his approbation? Could any business be more important, than what relates to an Union? Could any thing be more extraordinary, than appointing College money to be expended in resisting a Visitation? Why, then, did they not apply to the present Rector on these occasions? is it not because they knew his sentiments were against them? Would they not have been proud of his concurrence, could it have been obtained? But they thought proper to proceed without giving him any notice: Why? Is it not because they despaired of obtaining even his permission? Would they have ventured on this, when Mr. Middleton was Rector? Still they have proceeded, even after the Rector has intimated to them expressly his wish, that an Union may be effected: Is not this very disrespectful? In this situation, what right have they to call themselves the University?

What

What reason has this gentleman to assert, that the Marischal Professors wish to get a share of the salaries and patronage of King's College? Is it not proposed in the Outlines, that all patronage, and all management of funds, shall remain with the present Professors during their incumbency? Are not the salaries in Marischal College nearly equal to those of the King's College? Have they not been improved more rapidly during the last 16 years? Is it not probable, that the improvement of those funds, from which they *legally* arise, may soon render them more valuable, and more steady in their value, than the salaries of King's College?

Is there no fault, no shame, in changing their opinion after 32, or 16, or little more than one year, unless they can clear themselves from selfish, peevish, or party motives in the change? *Has it not a bad aspect*, if the reasons for both their former opinion and their present change, are admitted by themselves to partake of interested views? If the augmentation of salaries inclined them to support an Union in 1754, if that augmentation being excluded now determines them to oppose it? Whatever may be their objections to an Union, why should they resist a visitation? Will an Union follow, if it is not found, on enquiry, expedient for the better service of the public? Will they allege the expence? Did the visitation in 1716 stand the College any sum exceeding 20l. or 25l. sterling? Is it not rather, the fear that some mismanagement, or misapplication of their funds, may be enquired into? Is not this fear a panic? Is it likely that visitors will take any notice of past errors or mistakes, further than to establish better rules for the future? Or is it the establishment of such rules that they dislike?

By *what means* he asks, have gentlemen been induced to *subscribe in favour of the proposed Union*? Has it not been by its obvious propriety, and their own familiar knowledge of the subject? Is there any gentleman in this country, who has not frequently heard an Union of the Colleges made the subject of conversation of late years?

Has any of them explicitly refused such a general approbation? If then they dislike the plan offered, why do they not bring forward their own plan? Let the public form its judgment between them; let that which deserves it

it be preferred ; or let some middle plan be found out.

Is this gentleman quite certain that knowledge is more extended and frequent here than in any other part of the world ?

Is it a proof of great extent and abundance of knowledge in any country, that the Professors of its University are allowed to go on, each of them teaching all branches of science whatever ? Or is it not a proof of the direct contrary ? Is it not high time that this Gothic plan should be relinquished ? If any advantages are supposed to attend it, can they not be secured by other means ?

What is there in the plan of Union, that can be said to overturn the Constitution of either Society ? Does it not rather propose to fulfil and accomplish their object by employing the Funds of both for promoting Learning, according to a plan suited to these times, and the present enlarged state of Science ? Who is best judge of the expedience of such a plan ? The seven opponents of Union ? Or the Legislature, to which the other party wish to refer it ? Of what do these seven Gentlemen continue to complain ? Is it not that the friends of Union, very honourably supported, have petitioned the Legislature to take this matter under consideration ? And what do they at present oppose ? Not the Union ; which, when it comes before the Visitors, or the Legislature, they may very properly oppose, if their consciences shall permit ; but that which they now oppose is, that the Legislature should extend its consideration to that object at all.

What danger can there be that the Union will throw any impediments in the way of the poorer sort ? If there were any, could it not be prevented, by such means as shall not obstruct the provision of a more compleat education for the ingenious ? Does he really think, that in the United University there will be more imposition or expensive dues on the poorer sort, and more abuses of the kind he has mentioned, than he must know already exist in some of them separately ? *If nobody knows of such things*, is it not very fit, that enquiry should be made into that system of management, of which they form a part ?

Is the rivallship of two neighbouring seminaries an effectual check for such abuses ? Can it prevent the raising

of

offees? Have not fees been raised in both seminaries within not many years, and however they may differ in other matters, is it not highly probable that they would agree in this? Does not this rivalship encourage and generate other abuses? May not this gentleman's *recollection readily suggest* several? Is it not true that in both societies, the examinations for a Degree in Arts are degenerated into a mere farce? does not this arise perhaps from a prudent care in each, not to frighten away their students by strictness of discipline, or enquiries concerning proficiency? If after the Union any check is wanted, may it not be found without the society? Is not visitation the constitutional check? May not another be found of more easy application, by vesting certain negative powers in the Synod of Aberdeen? How does it become this gentleman to assert that the friends of Union had formed a plan for raising fees, which they have relinquished when pointed out? It is true that all the professors who promote the Union teach classes, and four only of those who oppose it: the other three holding Sinecure Offices: but it does not follow that the friends of Union are more intent on their fees than the opposers: may in not be quite otherwise? *Has not the public, he asks an interest in every foundation made for their benefit?* Certainly: and the friends of Union desire only, that enquiry may be made in behalf of the public, by what means that interest may be most effectually promoted. But the seven gentlemen of King's College oppose this enquiry, and resolve to employ public money, if they can, in resisting it.

Have not the public or any part of the public, he asks again, a title to oppose any alterations? Certainly.—And have not the public, or any part of the public, a title to propose any alteration they think requisite? and what were all the proceedings of the friends of Union before the meeting in September last, and since that time, until the signing of their petition, but mere consultations, whether it was proper, or could answer any good purpose at the present time, to propose any alteration in the Colleges? Had they not a complete right to enter into such deliberations, and in the result, to make such proposals, let them affect what constitutions or privileges they may? Had they not the same right to propose, which these gentlemen have to resist alterations?

terations? What reason have their opponents to take offence at this? May it not be suspected that other and latent motives have determined them to oppose an Union?
A. B.

More Queries respecting Another Querist.

IS not this gentleman one of the seven opposers of an Union? Does he not choose to appear ignorant of many things which he must know? Is he not particularly well acquainted with the powers of the Rector, however he may neglect them? — Is he not acquainted with abuses, which in the present state of the Colleges affect students of *the poorer sort*? Has he not heard certain dues which they must pay, objected to, in the meetings of Professors? Does he not remember the answers then given? Were not these answers the strongest arguments that could be brought for occasional visitation?

How long is it since the Professors of King's College became so solicitous for the education of *the poorer sort*? How long is it, since they avowed in *public* a different system declaring, almost in the words of Mandeville, that education ought to be confined to those who had property, or the certain prospect of a settlement in a learned profession?

For this good purpose, did they not reduce their bursaries to one half the number? Where was then their scrupulous attention to the spirit, or the letter, of Bishop Elphinston's foundation?

What privileges have the Professors of Marischal College claimed, which they cannot maintain? Is not the Querist who makes the assertion, the same person who sent forth the Handbill † some weeks ago, printed on brown paper (and supposed by mistake to come from Doctor Menis) quoting Virgil and St. Matthew in the same sentence, to prove, that the Marischal College could not be an University, and threatening to demolish that society at once, by a few strokes of his axe? But why did he not *examine* Dr. Blackwell thirty years ago, when he could have answered in his own behalf? Is it so much safer to trample on the ashes of the dead? Is this the poor revenge of those who shrunk before him when alive? But is he sure that the insult will escape without due chastisement? Are their not individuals disposed to resent it?

Will

Will
of the

"
" by

" Of
" of
" ap
" de

"
" lian
" ST
" the
" of
" Col
" elec
" as
" com
" the

Sir,

I Ob
wh
of the
(whose
me. I
their a
spirit,
our diff
appear
her frie
and had
nothing
their a
I had a
way; a

Will not the public despise its meanness ? Is it the foresight of this, that keeps his publication in suspense ? B.

† Copy of this handbill follows :

“ In the *press* ; In a few days will be published, and sold
“ by John Boyle, Bookseller, in Aberdeen,

“ A N E X A M I N A T I O N

“ Of an account of the Erection of the Marischal College
“ of Aberdeen by Dr. THOMAS BLACKWELL, by order and
“ appointment of the Honourable the Magistrates of Aber-
“ deen.

— *Si Troja dextra*

“ *Defendi posset, certe hac defensa fuisset.*

“ Showing from the foundation-charter, and Acts of Par-
“ liament, that the Marischal College is not an UNIVER-
“ SITY, and has no pretensions to the privilege of granting
“ the degrees of *Batchelor*, *Licentiate* or *Doctor* in the faculties
“ of Divinity, Law or Medicine : likewise, that the said
“ College has no power to elect a Chancellor, and that the
“ election of the respectable Gentlemen who take upon them
“ as Rector and Dean of faculty of the said College was not
“ completed in the manner required by the foundation of
“ the said College.—*Mat. iii. 10.*”

—
To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

Sir,

I Observe in your paper of the 25th that two personages,
I who call themselves Elphinston King, and N. N. Clerk
of the parish, have entered the lists on my sister's side,
(whose real name is Janet) in her unfortunate dispute with
me. But I am sure she will not thank any of them for
their assistance, unless they can write with a little more
spirit, and take care to know a little more of the nature of
our difference, which neither they nor Mr. Lovelearning,
appear to understand a syllable of. Had they really been
her friends they would have said very little on the subject ;
and had they been friends to truth, they would have said
nothing at all ; for my sister is very sensible that most of
their assertions are neither true, pudent, nor pertinent.
I had a meeting with Janet this very day, in a family
way ; and was certain from the sourness of her visage,
that

that something had happened which gave her uneasiness, and which she was ashamed to mention. When I cast my eye on your paper in the evening, I was at no loss to guess the reason. She herself, I assure you, Mr. Printer, has not only common sense, but even *pretends* to a little *taste*, and something of *genius*. She really never liked dunces nor their works. I am persuaded she is ashamed of these assistants (as well as of her reverendy accomplished champion who flourishes in the *Courant*;) and if they have been bred in her house, she has some reason. Mr. N. N. Clerk of the parish, may say what he pleases; but the letter you first inserted was not written by him—he is not capable of it. It was surely written by Janet's *principal clerk*. I know his style very well, and that it is too good to be disguised. However the following letter I lately received from my sister herself, will best explain her sentiments on this subject, which tho' it mortifies me, I have no objection to your publishing, as it may, perhaps, restore her good humour.

I am, &c.

MARGARET MARSHAL.

MARGARET,

Old Aberdeen, Wednesday.

ARE you not an ill-behaved hussy, to write such a letter to the gentleman at Edinburgh about me, when I sent him only a plain letter of *information*, with fewer parables than my common use, and no more fibs than my clerk insisted on. And for you to say, I am disordered in my mind! you pert quean. I wish it may not be found that you are disorderly in your life and conversation, Margaret. You talk of your youth and beauty forsooth! I wish good may come of it; but that's no matter of mine to meddle with.—You complain that I backbite you. Did you ever hear me? can any of your neighbours say that they have heard me? I know better than that; and only tell my reflections to those who, thro' vanity, will publish them as their own, taking care not to mention me, that they may not lose the credit of what they think smart sayings. Whereas you, when I used to send out my journey-men, with a drum and a bagpipe, and a pair of colours, to invite customers, used to laugh at them so loud, and point at them with your finger, and call the neighbours to

see,

fee, that the poor fellows, thro' mere shame, have refused to go on such errands any more. And an honest shift, I am sure, it was : and much do I regret the want of it, for I can no longer conceal that my customers are falling off daily.

But I know how to be revenged on you, you hussy. You say you have a licence, and have set up a sign post on the hill, forsooth ! but one of my journeymen, the lad of all work, shall beat it about your ears one of these mornings with a few strokes of his axe ; † and thus shall be fulfilled what was long since foretold by the prophets Virgil and St. Matthew.

You have not your bully, Tom Blackwell, now to defend you as formerly. A sore thorn he was in my side when alive : all my lads looked so sheepish before him, because he knew what they should have known and did not like to learn. But now we have got his head down, and may dance on his grave, thank God.

I see you are become a light headed girl, half crazy with vanity, because the Duke of this, and the Earl of that, take notice of you, and think well of your schemes. To be sure they know much of the matter. One of my clerks shall write more on the subject in a day, than they will have patience to read in a year. Have these great folks any skill in Shoemaking, Margaret ? Did any of them ever put an awl in leather ? is it they that are our best customers ? I wish you were a little *more wiser*. I should be sorry if any misfortune befel you : but I will not say what I think, till I get all my cronies about me in the old house on Saturdays. You compare yourself to me, indeed, and say you have more customers. The more is the pity, and the greater fools they. But can you compare your journeymen with mine ? have you any hands fit for all work, from childrens shoes, to salmon fisher's boots ? I have three such capable lads at present, and have never been without them ; whereas you have not had one in

† This lad was so proud of his employment that he sent round a hand-bill, inviting all the neighbours, to come and see him demolish it in a few days, and quoted Virgil and St. Matthew to shew his learning, but this achievement is not yet accomplished. See the preceding paper.

U

your

your shop these thirty years*. Indeed one of my youngest, grumbles forsooth, and says they must all make bad work by changing hands so oft; and I believe he thinks his two neighbours wizards, if they perform all they undertake.

I know what you would be at; you want to get your hand among my cash, on false pretences to rob me of my money. But I'll take care of that I warrant you. And so you must say that I have not come honestly by it! What's that to you, hussy. If I have taken any of it, even from the church box, what is that to you? you say too that I am afraid of the Pillory, whereas I only used that argument on a pinch, when I could get none other to serve the turn. It is well known I am not afraid of the Pillory, or of banishment either. Our neighbours all say so; and you yourself tho' you speak little ill of me, and would not speak good I believe if you knew it, yet must acknowledge, that, in all doubtful cases of law or conscience, I carry a good heart, and feel no want of courage. It is true, indeed, my clerks are at pains to keep me right, when I am wavering myself. Just now I am obliged to them for shewing me, that I have a right to sell my father's lands, tho' I thought, and still suspect, that the very clause in the settlement, on which they found their argument, implies an express prohibition. I rely however on their skill in Latin, and hope they are right, otherwise we shall be sadly off, if either the good Doctor *visits* us, or the fifteen Apothecaries should send for us. They have given some of my favourite journeymen such doses in former times, that we can never think of them without terror.

You impudent gipsy, you have also had the audacity to insinuate that my ancient and mouldering edifice has much the appearance of a house of bad fame, and that I let lodgings to all the unmarried journeymen and school boys of the village. The house to be sure is rather in a crazy condition, and the broken windows have no very good aspect, but as it has been for sometime almost unoccupied, it is no great wonder, and it is no great matter. At any rate it is a better house than your's, and you shall never set your nose in it, if I can help it; for as Pappa

* When the Professors in M. College were fixed to separate departments.

used to say on another occasion, it is better to have a *teem* house than an ill tenant. As to the edifice of my reputation, Margaret, I'd have you know that it is too well supported by the *Basilitic* pillars of Staffa, Egg, and Muck, not to speak of the benefit of the clergy of Lewis, Uist, and Sky, for you with all your gallants to be able to undermine it.

Upon the whole, sister, I advise you to be quiet, and give us no more of this bustle. Your very name and your petitioning, are both odious and ominous as my bastard brother Elphinston says. I wish there were no Margarets in our family. My *principal* journeyman says, you are just like an unruly boy, clamouring for gingerbread. I cannot say that in my heart I disapprove of your schemes; but I am now too old to change; and my lads have most of them been 30 years in the shop. Most of yours are young fellows, who make a great noise about *Servatories* and *Botonics*, and *Maconics*, and things that my people never knew, nor wished to know; and yet our customers think my wares as good as yours. Don't, then, let us take pains to make these country folks wiser than is good for them, lest it bring us also more trouble than we foresee. Do you mind this, Margaret, as the best advice of your elder sister.

JANET ELPHINSTON.

From the Aberdeen Journal.

A PROPHECY EXPLAINED.

"**D**EE and Don shall run in one,"

So Thomas Rhymer told,

Tho' to this day believed by none

That such a thing could hold:

But seeing what's a doing now

The Scottish Merlin spoke,

What faithless critics hitherto

Have counted but a joke.

'Twas not that Don should run to Dee,

Or Dee fall into Don.

But that their colleges should be

United into one.

In honour then of Scotland's bard,

Let King and Earl agree,

And Bishop DON submit, tho' hard,
 To join with Marishal DEE.
 So shall the old prophetic dream
 Explain its mystic course,
 And learning's long divided-stream
 Shall run with double force.

TIRESIAS.

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal.

Sir,

WHILE the members of the Universities are adjusting their proposed Union, other gentlemen may not improperly consider how far the country at large has interest in these societies.

In the Memorial from King's College, that community is said to be a more independent body than any other College or University in Scotland; This boast, almost calls for an enquiry whether they do not possess more independence than is good for the real interest of a seminary of learning; especially as this most independent College is not in other respects the most flourishing, and happens to be the least frequented by students of any in Scotland.

It is my opinion, that they possess too much power in choosing their own members: I do not say that they have abused it, but, in so narrow a society, such power must naturally tend to cabal, and this seemed the best reason alledged for parting with the patronage of kirks. Experience does not show that the best professors are to be chosen in this manner. The most eminent in Scotland have been presented by the crown, and by town-councils.

I find also, on enquiry, that the Founder of King's College, intended the country at large should partake in the power of electing the Professors in his College.—Four *Procuratores Nationum*, for Marr, Moray, Angus, and Lothian, ought to vote in all the principal elections along with an equal number, or only one more, of the permanent members of the College. These Procuratores, or Representatives, ought not to be chosen, as at present, on occasion of a vacancy, by the Professors who are to vote along with them, which, is ridiculous mummery, but they ought to be annually elected according

according to the practice of the University of Paris, and by all the graduates of these provinces respectively.

It need not be doubted, but Visitors, on a proper representation, would restore this provision to its original efficacy. A few regulations in point of form would be sufficient.

Might not such a procurator be annually chosen by the Synods of Aberdeen, Moray, Angus, and Lothian? And might not the gentlemen who have taken degrees, be permitted to vote along with the Clergy, in such election? Or, if the election is annually held within the College, might not the Graduates residing at a distance be allowed to vote by written billets transmitted in authentic form?

The Professors of King's College, boast likewise in their Memorial, that they are much more amply endowed than the Marischal College.— We might not readily infer this, from the apparent expences of the two societies for public or literary purposes.

But since the funds of King's College are so ample, ought not their accounts to be submitted to the inspection of some persons without the society? Is there no provision in the foundation which has this tendency? If there is, will not Visitors, in all probability, revive it? This seems to be one of those things which “the common sense of mankind will not deem a trifle.” Suppose that these accounts were annually laid before the Michaelmas Court, like other accounts of public money; or that, Auditors chosen by that court, had power to examine these accounts, and to enter their remarks in the College-records, for the information of future Visitors;—I am in my heart convinced, that this would promote the interest of the College itself, considered as a seat of learning: It would prove a very moderate check to abuses, yet sufficient to keep the Professors in mind, that they are not proprietors of the College estate, but Trustees only for the public with the privilege of paying their own salaries in the first place. It is very natural that they should forget this, if the country does not keep them in mind by proper attention.

D.

To the PUBLIC

EVERY one, who reads the Aberdeen Journal, must know, that an Union of the two Colleges here has been lately proposed, with a view of enlarging the present plan of education. That such an Union may take place, is my earnest wish, for reasons which to me appear perfectly just and satisfactory. I mean not however to enter into the merits of the cause. Happily there is no need for the exertion of my weak abilities on this occasion. The friends of the Union have supported their side of the question in an able and spirited manner : and their well-meant endeavours, as far as I can learn, are honoured with the approbation and good wishes of such as have no private interest at stake nor party to serve.

That there are several necessary branches of education, which have never been publicly taught in this place cannot be denied, particularly that of Medicine.

My chief motive for appearing in print on this occasion, is to testify the entire approbation, which the proposed Plan of Union has received from the Students of Medicine in Aberdeen. They are unanimously of opinion, that it would be highly proper and expedient, and they promise to themselves not *imaginary*, but real and substantial advantages from Lectures delivered by two, three, or more established Professors, on the most important branches of Medicine.

In consequence of this persuasion, they have impowered me to announce to the public their sentiments on the subject, with all due deference to the opinion of better judges.

The Students of Medicine are all young and untutored in the ways of the world : they are the servants of no party, and they can have no other end in view, except that of obtaining necessary instruction in the most interesting branches of their profession. It is therefore to be hoped, that the impartial public will pay some regard, if not to the approbation, at least to the improvement of such a number of young men who, in their turn, will one day be intrusted with the health, the lives and limbs of many of their fellow-subjects, either by land or sea.

Aberdeen, Oct 12 1786.

MACHAON.

To the Members of M—— C——,

SINCE Solomon told us, as sure as a gun,
That nothing at all is *new* under the sun,
We're bound to believe that all *new* things are evil,
And come from that Prince of the Air called the D——l.
From that subtle spirit, without any question,
Springs every *new* notion, and each *new* suggestion.
What else could inspire you Reformers to aim
At an Union of Colleges here——O for shame!
Retract, and avoid all the dismal disasters
Foreseen and foretold by

The Seven wise Masters.

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal.

Sir.

I Trust the arguments suggested by the county and presbytery of Inverness will prove decisive against the Union of the King's and Marischal Colleges. Emulation is so necessary to the progress of literature, and division to emulation, that the argument is complete. As the public are much indebted to the honourable and learned gentlemen, who have made the discovery; I hope you will receive my mite in support of the same principle, and communicate to the public a few proposals for rendering it still more generally useful.

1mo. I would humbly propose that the Colleges of Edinburgh, and Glasgow be divided each into two; for in their present situation, they are destitute of the grand stimulus to a progress in literature, without which they never can expect to arrive at that eminence and high reputation which the Colleges of Aberdeen have already attained. As for the College of St Andrews, the learned heads of that University must have a mixture of blockishness, with all deference be it said, to make a voluntary sacrifice of what was so essential to their credit and prosperity.

2do Let all fit means continue to be used, to sow dissension betwixt the Regents of the divided Colleges, so that they may entertain a cordial hatred for one another in private, and as opportunity offers, come to loggerheads in print.

print. This will infallibly guard against that Union, contrived like the tricks of confederate Gladiators or Mountebanks, to chouse the public out of their money. It will likewise excite that spirit of emulation, which together with interest are the best motives for securing a due attention, in any Professor, and will give an opportunity of displaying such talents as cannot fail to collect a multitude of students from all quarters.

3tio. Let the same prudent means be used to sow dissensions betwixt the students of the divided Colleges, which the good example of their masters will very properly encourage. I am informed that some time ago, the Students of the two Colleges in Aberdeen profited much by this spirit. But the degeneracy of these later times has much wore away that laudable emulation. In order to revive it, I would recommend to the Students of King's College to return to the good old practice of carrying stones in the sleeves of their gowns, for which they were originally contrived, and whenever one of them accidentally meets a Student of the Marischal College, he may by a genteel and careless swing of his sleeve hit the other a blow on the head, which he as a gentleman will resent, and collect his companions together for that purpose; from lesser skirmishes they may advance to greater, till the Students of both Colleges join in regular pitched battles. Many are the advantages of this scheme; the spirit of emulation, which is the grand spur to a progress in Literature, will be once more brought to perfection by it. Besides that it will have a happy effect on the morals of the youth, being reared up in the practice of that cardinal virtue, *Fortitude*. As this nation at large will profit by it, when the seminaries of learning will produce the scholar, the man of virtue, and the soldier at once.

I might quote you the laws of Lycurgus in support of this scheme, but I flatter myself it has abundance to recommend it in its own intrinsic merit, so I shall save you and myself the trouble.

I am, you admirer,

DEMOCRITUS.

To

To the Printer of the Aberdeen Journal.

Sir,

THE Resolutions of the Gentlemen of Invernesshire, relative to the Union of the two Colleges here, are, intitled to much attention. I beg therefore that you will give them room, together with a few observations, suggested by perusing them.

The Reply to the Memorial by seven Professors of King's College was only published about the tenth of October, on which day the circular Letter is dated; probably therefore, but few of these Gentlemen can have seen that Reply in behalf of the Union, which is not as yet (except it be very lately) lodged with the Clerk of Supply.

The meeting, it seems, was a general one of the Freeholders, Commissioners of Supply, Justices of the Peace, and other Gentlemen heritors of the County of Inverness: twenty-seven Gentlemen were present, of whom, twenty-three disapproved of the proposed plan.

"1mo. Because, by the proposed Union, there will be a total stop put to emulation betwixt the two Universities, which they apprehend to be the best spur for promoting every establishment."

This emulation at present produces no effect, either good or bad; that it ever can produce good effects is doubted: that it has produced bad effects is certain: Some of these are remembered, others are on record, and have given much trouble to Royal Visitors.

The Emulation of two neighbouring and Rival Colleges, formerly subsisted at St. Andrews. Their Union put an end to it, and since that time the University, has become much more flourishing and useful than before.

"2do. Because it would be of a very dangerous consequence, was the Legislature to make any essential alteration in the donations made to these Universities, or their franchises, as might prove a total check to such endowments in future."

The Legislature will have no occasion to make essential alterations in the Donations made to these Colleges, but merely to ascertain and authorize that Plan by which they may be most beneficially applied to the purposes intended

by the Donors. The franchise of these Communities will remain unimpaired, will become more valuable to themselves, and more useful to the Public, for whose sake it was originally granted.

“ 3tio. That as population is upon the increase in this part of the united kingdom, it would be unpolitic to clog the avenues to erudition, by making any alteration in these Colleges, which have flourished for so many years, when the several branches of learning were less an object of pursuit than in the present age,”

Instead of clogging or obstructing the Avenues to Erudition, the object of the Union is to open and clear them, and to provide for the Youth of this Northern country, the same opportunities of Education, which Glasgow affords to the West.

Many alterations have been made in the Colleges since their Institution, and all which have been made by the Legislature, or by Royal Visitors have proved beneficial: others made in a private manner, have frequently been corrected, and reformed by Visitation.

“ 4to. The meeting particularly disapprove of having classes in the same University at above a mile's distance from each other, as proposed by the said plan, because it frequently happens that young men, either from extraordinary capacities or limited fortunes, may find it expedient, during the same session, to attend these separated classes. And the meeting are rather inclined to think that if one College was deemed sufficient for the town of Aberdeen, it would be more for the national good that the same should be fixed at Old Aberdeen, as possessing better air and better buildings than those of the Marischal College, and being at a greater distance from such amusements as are frequently apt to divert young men from a due attention to study.”

Much may be said, as to the preference of New or Old Aberdeen, for the seat of an University: the distance of a short mile will not keep young men from any amusements they wish to frequent, but may occasion more loss of time in resorting to them, and may expose to more casual dissipation, and irregularity.

It is but a slight inconvenience for students, to attend one Class in the New-Town, and another in the Old
Town,

Town, in the same day, should that become requisite. The Old Town students frequently attend private teachers in New Aberdeen at present. Even this slight inconvenience, may be almost wholly obviated, by a proper distribution of classes.

“ And lastly, This meeting humbly apprehend that, in place of enlarging the salaries of the present Professors, or adding any unnecessary classes to any of these Colleges, which appears to be the principal object of the foresaid plan, that if it is thought expedient to annihilate one of them, it would be also proper to dispose of the buildings of the other, and to employ the price thereof, and of any surplus, after bestowing proper salaries on the Professors of the remaining College, in establishing an academy in some central Royal Burgh in the Highlands, which would prove of very great national importance, especially if the present scheme of the fisheries succeeds.”

To enlarge the salaries of the present Professors is not the principal object of the Plan : neither is it proposed to add unnecessary Classes, but to establish such as are wanting in this University, and are known to be very flourishing and very useful in the University of Glasgow, the model which it is proposed to adopt.

Far less is it intended to annihilate either of these Colleges, but to combine their operations, in such manner, as may render each more useful, and more prosperous than in their separate state.

If, in consequence of such combination, at present, or hereafter, by the operation of the accumulating fund, any surplus should arise, it might very fitly be employed (and very much according to the liberal intentions of the founders) in establishing an Academy, or Academies, at Inverness, or in other proper situations in the North : Such Academies being always considered as branches of the United University, and subject to its laws.—This suggestion, thrown out by these gentlemen, and treated ludicrously by some, is in itself, rational, and liberal ; perhaps, in some measure, practicable ; at least, it is well entitled to consideration, in the farther progress of measures for accomplishing an Union.

A.

COPIES of MEMORIALS, and REASONS of PROTEST, *inserted in the RECORDS of KING's COLLEGE, in the years 1784, and 1785.*

King's College, March 22d, 1787.

THE Seven Professors who oppose the Union of the Colleges have introduced into their Memorial, an oblique and not very candid account, of certain differences of opinion which have arisen in their Society previous to any mention of that Plan: and they insinuate, that one of their Colleagues has acted from private and party views.

Being called upon to make good this assertion, and to lay before the Public the Minutes of College Meetings relative to these affairs, they refuse to comply.

It seems requisite therefore, that the person thus alluded to, should vindicate himself from their intended aspersions. For this purpose, he commits to the press the following papers containing the substance of every dispute he ever had with any of his Colleagues before the plan of Union was brought forward:—excepting only, that disliking very much the manner in which Academical Degrees in Arts, in Medicine, and Divinity, are usually conferred in this College, he has for some years declined taking any concern in such *transactions*.

The seven Professors are pleased to say that he is engaged in a determined opposition to all their Measures.—To those only of which he cannot approve: He regrets that they are so many, and still more he regrets, that love of tranquillity and personal esteem for some as individuals, should have so long restrained him from entering into such opposition.

He forbears to make any comment on the following papers. If the Gentlemen shall at length publish their very long and elaborate Answers inserted in the College Records, he means immediately to subjoin those short replies which they as a Majority of the College meeting refused to receive.—Finding that all their skillful industry could not avail to darken or perplex so clear a subject, they thought it expedient to cut short the debate, in a manner which betrays want of confidence in their cause, while it secures some unfair advantages on that side.

The

The candid and impartial, who pay attention to these controversies, may judge for themselves, whether he who urges the following proposals, or they who forgetting ancient animosities, and some recent jealousies beside, have joined together to reject them, and now refuse to produce the Reasons of their conduct before the public, are most probably guided by private and interested views.

They are the very same persons, who have since joined together in opposing an Union of the Colleges: acting from the same principles no doubt. However sordid and illiberal these principles may appear to the friends of Learning, it is to be supposed that the seven Professors have their own approbation: and yet this supposition, wants not its difficulties in respect of those among them who are men of Letters, and who in other cases, and on former occasions have shewn good inclinations to promote the interests of Learning.

No. I. *Representation to the College Meeting February 16th, 1784.*

Mr. Ogilvie represents to the Meeting that he has many objections to the proposed sale of the Washing-green and Croft, and wishes to call their attention to one in particular.

That spot of ground is uncommonly well adapted for a Botanic Garden, by the variety of soil it contains, its command of water, its sheltered situation, and its nearness to the College.

Altho' we are not able, or willing to set a Botanic Garden on foot at present, our Successors will probably soon find it necessary to have one.

It is not the pecuniary interests of the College which ought to be regarded in this matter, for that is a trifle, but its interest and accomodation as a seminary of Learning; and the reputation of its present members.

Certainly it will be accounted great ignorance of the progress of Science in the present times, or great disregard of what other learned Societies are pursuing for an University, having the property of a spot of ground so singularly well adapted for a Botanic Garden, and so contiguous, to part with that property, either for money or for favour.

No. II. *Reasons of Protest against the proposed Bargain with Mr. Hugh Leslie given in on April 17th, 1784.*

I. It tends to the disadvantage of the College,

By stopping a very convenient road which communicates with the country on the south-west side, and leads directly from the new houses to the open fields :

By shutting up a well of excellent water, better than any in the neighbourhood, and which continues during the summer months, when they are apt to fail.

By giving away a more convenient Washing-green than any that can be provided in its stead.

By giving away ground which lying so near at hand may be much wanted by the inhabitants of the new houses, and of those which are afterwards to be built, for additional gardens, for pleasure ground, or pasture.

By depriving the College of the command of a spot of ground, which by its variety of soil, its command of water, its sheltered situation and vicinity, is so remarkably well adapted for a Botanic Garden, which some time or other the College will have occasion to establish.

II. It is contrary to the intention of our Founder, who has taken no small pains in uniting so many pieces of ground adjacent to his College, and would have been more disposed to purchase the tenement opposite to its gate, and separating the Canonist's Glebe from the Mediciner's than to suffer any part of either Glebe to be annexed to that tenement according to the bargain now in agitation. The alteration of times has made us depart very far from the literal meaning of his institutions, and we ought therefore to be more scrupulous of departing from their spirit, and violating his purposes and intentions even in the smallest affairs.

III. It is an evil precedent.—About 15 years ago we first began to feu off land within the College bounds ; about two years ago part of the Humanist's Glebe was feued off, a third alienation seems now to be determined upon, and others are thought to be in contemplation ; These instances follow so fast on each other, that it is time to stop and consider where the practice may end.

Had our predecessors thought themselves at liberty to feu off the College Glebes, they would not have wanted persons willing to receive them on easy terms, and we should have been much worse accommodated than we are : Our successors will not want persons, whom they may be inclined to oblige in the same manner ; and this precedent, if admitted, may be

be alledged in justification of the most pernicious dilapidations.

IV. The bargain is unequal.—Little notice might been taken of this, had it not been extolled as extremely advantageous for the College, and had not that reason been alone given for concluding it so unadvisedly. Let us see then how the matter stands.—Land lying within a hundred yards of a street derives value from its situation whatever be its quality. Some part of this is very good, and the whole very tractable: 4*l.* per acre is a moderate average rent of land lying so near the Old Town street on Leases of 19 years. Thirty years purchase is the lowest price which a proprietor of land will accept when he is not constrained to sell: Thirty years purchase of 4*l.* converted into a feu duty gives 6*l.* per acre instead of 3*l.* 10*s.* as the simple value of the ground, without taking into consideration the conveniences which the purchaser acquires, and the inconveniences to which the sellers have submitted. In this case the purchaser acquires a desirable addition to his pleasure ground, and gets rid of a troublesome road: The sellers are deprived of a commodious access to the Country, of an excellent well, and ground very valuable to them for Academical purposes and others. These considerations ought to have raised the price far above the moderate feu duty proposed. Every one must see this: Mr. Leslie with great candour acknowledges that his son gets the ground somewhat below its full value, and mentions 10 or 20 shillings a year as the abatement. The mere loss of this value may be accounted a trifle, but the stopping a road, the shutting up a well and depriving the College of ground which may be so much wanted for purposes the most creditable for an University, are considerations of some importance.—In some smaller circumstances (which it is not necessary to insist on) the interest of the College is manifestly overlooked.

V. It is at least doubtful, whether we can legally alienate for ever, lands lying within the precincts of the College.

A Proposal having been made to take the opinion of Lawyers on this point, it may be thought extraordinary that four members of the College meeting, in opposition to three, should determine to proceed without delay: especially when that proposal was supported by referring to a transaction in this very College which being brought before the Lords of Session, it was found (according to L. Bankton's account

then read to the meeting) " Deeds granted by the Principal and Members of an University or College are not effectual against their successors in office, but so far as they were for onerous causes tending to the good of the University." M'Dowal's Institutes I. p. 9.

But whatever our powers shall be found to be, it certainly behoves us to keep at a distance even from the suspicion of abusing them.

With regard to this transaction, in which we act as life-renters and trustees for our successors, it will perhaps be asked whether the majority would have feued off these subjects to a stranger on the same terms, or almost on any terms whatever.

It may likewise be asked whether any individual of the Society, if proprietor of the new houses and the subjects in question, would have allowed the road to be stopped, and the well to be shut up, or consented to part with that piece of ground on these terms, or almost on any terms whatever. No. III. *Representation to the College Meeting, May 11th 1784.*

Mr. Ogilvie requests, that the meeting will take into consideration the state of the Library, which is extremely deficient in various branches of science and Literature, particularly in the more valuable books published at home and abroad since about the end of last century. It appears that the fund is at present so much reduced, as not to furnish any reasonable supply : during eight years preceding Martinmas 1782, after defraying the necessary annual expences, not more than 5*l.* or 6*l.* a year has been afforded for purchasing books.

He proposes therefore that as the *Ædilis* fund has been from time to time augmented, by assigning annual payments from the Procuration fund, so the Library fund being so much reduced, and wholly inadequate to its purpose, may receive augmentation by an annual payment of the same kind.

He will not take upon himself to name any sum, for he cannot doubt but his Colleagues will see the expediency of supporting this branch of Academical expence in a very liberal manner.

Other methods of improving the Library fund have been mentioned, but they are precarious, scanty, and liable to various objections : that now proposed is easy, certain, may be considerable, and the more considerable it is, the more credit

it will do to the Society: it is altogether conformable to precedents repeatedly set in the case of the *Ædilis fund*: the late improvements of the College revenue will admit of it; and as the Library ought undoubtedly to partake of these improvements, such an augmentation of its fund must appear exceedingly proper, or rather indispensable.

No. IV. *Proposals given in to the College meeting November 20th, 1784.*

The College meeting of July 7th having refused to augment the Library fund by an annual payment from the Procuration, the following proposals for procuring some additional funds for purchasing books are now submitted to consideration.

I. That the dues payable on degrees (the principal branch of the Library fund) be increased one half i. e. the degree of Master of Arts 3s. 9d, and the degree of Doctor in any of the Faculties 2l. 10s. *Other circumstances being considered*, the candidates will probably not grudge this additional expence. It is almost a century since these dues have been raised; and perhaps the neighbouring University might concur.

II. Tho' it is far from expedient to impose any new payments on the Students, it might be proper enough to transfer to the Library certain dues, which are at present exacted from the Bursars on very antiquated pretexts, and to give them in compensation, more frequent and advantageous access to the books which it contains. The dues alluded to are 2s. 6d. yearly for the use of silver spoons which they never see, and one shilling yearly for a dinner, at which they are never asked to be present. These taken together may amount to about 12 l. Sterling.

III. That compensation be made to the Library fund for those sums which at the time of fitting up the new Library, and since, have been taken from it to defray expences properly belonging to the *Ædilis fund*. By a rough calculation these amount to 120l. or 130l: and as the Library fund is not to receive an augmentation from the other funds of the Society, it seems but just that it should not be pillaged for their behoof.

An immediate augmentation of the Library from the Procuration fund, will no doubt be more effectual, and more creditable for the College than any, or all of the above proposals: but the Society have declared, that buying books

for the Library is no legal burden on the funds, because it seems there is no mention of it in the foundation: nor is there in the foundation any mention of dividing annually among the Masters any accreſcing revenue which might afterwards ariſe: on that ground therefore, this annual diviſion might be declared fully aſillegal as buying books for the Library, and to thoſe not concerned, it might appear ſomewhat more ſo. But it is more reaſonable perhaps to admit that as both are Academicall purpoſes, and in ſome degree neceſſary, tho' not expreſſly authoriſed by the Foundation, they may, under proper limitations, be accounted not inconſiſtent with it's ſpirit and intention.

I mean not to make any further mention of applying our general funds in purchaſing books, as that is ſo unacceptable a propoſal, but I take this occaſion of ſuggeſting to the Society two things which ſeem requiſite to render our annual diviſion of the accreſcing revenue leſs exceptionable, than it appears at firſt ſight, and not irreconcilable to the ſpirit of the Foundation.

I. That thoſe Eleemoſynary payments, which the Founder has ſpecially appointed, ſhould be made to partake of the improvement of the revenue, or at leaſt kept up to their original value. By the Foundation, Biſhop Elphington's Burſars are entitled to Lodging and Education *gratis* with an annual payment of 12 Merks. By Ruddiman's table and other documents it appears, that in James Vth's reign 12 Merks were at leaſt equivalent, to 12 bolls of barley or meal; but 3*l*. 8*s*. Sterling, the ſum which the Burſars now receive (after all deductions) is hardly equivalent to fix bolls at the loweſt valuation.

II. That in the management of the general revenue of the Society, an accumulating Fund ſhould be eſtabliſhed, ſimilar to that, whoſe good effects are ſo familiar to us in the management of particular Mortifications. We owe it no doubt to our ſucceſſors, to make ſome proviſion for their having ſtill the ſame or a more ample accreſcing revenue to divide.

For this end it is propoſed that inſtead of dividing the whole amount of the accreſcing revenue every year, a certain proportion of it, as one tenth part, ſhould be appropriated to an accumulating fund, to be kept ſeparate from others and improved at compound intereſt by the Procurator. That it ſhall not be allowable, to touch any part of this fund, until
its

its annual produce shall have been on an average of 10 years equal to the accreſcing revenue annually divided among the Maſters.—That when this ſhall come to be the caſe, either by the increaſe of the one fund, or the falling off of the other, it may be allowable to transfer to the Procuration any part of the accumulating fund not exceeding a certain proportion, as two thirds, the remainder being left to go on accumulating as before.—If the principle is not rejected, the particular conditions of ſuch a ſcheme may be varied at pleaſure. Had ſuch a fund been eſtabliſhed when the annual diviſion of accreſcing revenue commenced, it might by this time have amounted to 1800l. and in 17 years after to 6000l. at which time if the average of the accreſcing revenue had not riſen above 300l. an addition of 4000l. to the Procuration fund would have taken place; if the accreſcing revenue had riſen higher, ſuch addition would have been leſs neceſſary.

No. V. *Reasons of Proteſt againſt the Reſolutions of the College Meeting, April 9th, 1785.*

I. Becauſe the Majority have rejected my propoſals as improper, without venturing to deny the reality of thoſe abuſes to which they refer, and without ſuggeſting any leſs improper in their ſtead.

I have aſſerted, that the revenue of the Library is ſcanty, that no more than 6l. is annually expended on buying books, and that this revenue has been improperly reduced by transferring conſiderable ſums to the *Ædilis* fund. I have aſſerted, that the payments made to Biſhop Elphington's Burſars have fallen far below their original value, while the Salaries of the Maſters payable out of the ſame funds have riſen far above it.—I have aſſerted that our preſent method of dividing the whole accreſcing revenue annually among ourſelves, is neither ſtrictly juſtifiable, nor very decent. The majority have not contradicted any of theſe aſſertions, nor can they.

The remedies I propoſed, are very poſſibly far from the beſt that may be deviſed. I meant by propoſing them, chiefly to expreſs my own wiſhes, and to rouse the attention of my Colleagues, ſeveral of whom I know to be more equal to the taſk. I was by no means attached to theſe propoſals as mine, and would gladly have conſented to any moderate remedies, which the Society in their diſcretion might have choſen to adopt. But all remedy
whatever

whatever is, it seems, to be with-held. The strange maxims I have heard asserted, (inconsiderately as I thought) are to be maintained in practice, and defended as usual by evasions and forms.

II. Because, by requiring that hereafter all Reasons of protest should be communicated to a College Meeting previous to their insertion, the majority have prescribed a form, which if it is not frivolous, must have a pernicious tendency.

They have also found that the insertion of my last protest, by my own hand, was irregular. How could I suppose any irregularity in that which is so consonant to the practice of the Society? How many Minutes are there inserted by private members, in their own hand, without any formal notification to a meeting? No later than

the very Gentleman who moved for those resolutions against which I protest, inserted with his own hand, and without the least communication to the College Meeting, a Minute purporting to be their resolutions, and assigning certain payments of money in their gift. If it be competent to a private member to insert minutes in this manner, how much more must it be so to insert his own Reasons of Protest, Reasons, over which, if communicated, the Meeting can have no power to alter or reject them. For that they have, even this majority will not assert.

Amid their zeal for frivolous and pernicious forms, let them be reminded of that facility, with which on a late occasion they chose to trample under foot forms truly salutary and essential. I mean those forms which require that all our resolutions on business should be recorded in the minutes at the time, and signed in presence of the meeting.

I am but little acquainted with forms, and much disposed not to trespass against them. Of both these circumstances, my opponents have profited. It gives me satisfaction however, and seems a good omen, that men so well acquainted with business, and of such sound judgment as some of them are, chuse manifestly to defend their present cause by formalities and *fetches for delay*, and seem to shun as with horror, all free discussion of essential points.

(Signed)

WILLIAM OGILVIE.

N. B. In the College Meeting April 12th, 1784, Mr. Ogilvie proposed, that the opinion of the Crown Lawyers should be taken on the two following Questions :

I. Whether the Feuing out of Land, lying within the College Precincts, is a lawful administration, except in cases of necessity ?

II. Whether a Feu charter of the subjects now in question, will bind our successors, in case they should want these subjects, for any purpose tending to the advantage or reputation of the College, as for a Botanic Garden ?

This is the proposal mentioned in No. II.

The protest mentioned in No. V. was taken in the College Meeting, held Jan. 31st 1785, on account of the Majority's delaying to insert in the minutes, the Proposals given in Nov. 20th 1784.

REASONS OF PROTEST.

I. Because on this occasion an inconsiderable majority, viz. Dr. Gerard, Dr. Chalmers, Professor Gordon, Professor Leslie arrogate to themselves a power, which cannot belong to any Majority, however numerous or respectable.

Will they presume to say, that any member has not a right to make in the College meeting such proposals as he thinks may tend to the advantage of the society, and to have them inserted in the Minute as part of the *Res Gestæ* of that day ? Or will they say that matters of a frivolous nature were suggested to their attention, when it was proposed, that the scanty income of the Library should be improved by increasing the fees which are now usually paid on degrees ?

That the spoon money, and money for the annual dinner (if continued to be collected) should be applied to the Library for the particular advantage of the bursars, from whom it is now collected on obsolete pretexts.

That the Library fund should receive compensation, for certain sums which had been improperly taken from it.

That the payments to Bishop Elphinston's Bursars should be made equivalent to their real value at the time of the Foundation ; or rather be made to partake of the late improvement of the College Funds. And that a certain proportion of the accreſcing Revenue, now annually divided, should be set apart for an accumulating fund, to be improved at compound interest, and not to be broke in upon until its annual produce shall have become equal to the sum annually divided among the Masters.

II. Because

II. Because of late a system has been adopted of eluding enquiries, and suppressing all free discussion of questionable points. On various occasions this System has betrayed itself, and in the meeting of Oct. 23, it was pretty openly avowed. The present resolution of the majority manifestly flows from it, and being of small importance in itself is probably intended to form a precedent. In that light it seems important and pernicious, and deserves to be resisted to the utmost.

(Signed)

WILLIAM OGILVIE.

Extract from Letters to a Gentleman in the Country written by a Member of King's College.

King's College, Oct. 21st, 1786.

YOU must have read with surprize, that part of the Memorial from King's College, in which it is alledged, that I had started the proposal of a visitation, with a view to bring forward private and party complaints. I am far less acquainted with party cabals than some of these gentlemen are, and not much accustomed to complain. On this occasion nothing can be farther from my thoughts than to bring any complaints whatever before the royal Visitors, were they already appointed. I might perhaps take the liberty to lay before them some proposals, relative to the improvement of education, and the better management of our funds, but, without any mixture of complaint, and with as little reference as may be to any thing that is past.

As to the matter of private or personal complaint I have none. We have differed only in questions of a public nature, respecting the intentions of the founder, and the proper application of the College revenue.

I have proposed that the augmentation of salaries should be limited to a definite sum: that a due share of the surplus revenue should be set apart for literary academical purposes: that the practice of borrowing sums of money, and leaving them as perpetual burdens on our successors, should be laid aside: and that an accumulating fund should be established on a suitable plan.

They have rejected all these, and I confess I felt the disappointment of their rejecting the accumulating fund. It is but lately that the wonderful effects of such accumulation have become the objects of belief. In the affairs of great

great nations they must be precarious ; but in the affairs of small communities, it may be hoped, that they would proceed under the protection of municipal law, for a long series of generations, with all the certainty of calculation. Believing, that my colleagues might be made to attend to this, and being extremely desirous, that an establishment of that nature, might have commencement here, I renewed my proposals ; suggesting, that 5 per cent, or even 3 per cent of the surplus revenue, might be sufficient. Supposing this last to amount to 10l. per annum, I stated, that if applied to the payment of debts, it would in 44 years clear off 1500l. of those for which provision ought to be made : if suffered to accumulate, it might in a space of time equal to what is past since the last visitation, produce an increase of two thirds to the surplus revenue : If suffered to accumulate for a century, a period which may reasonably fall within our calculations, since the community has existed in safety for three centuries, it would produce a fund, equal to all that the founder or private donors have bestowed on the College.

Even this moderate scheme could obtain no regard. In the last page of their Memorial, it is asserted, that the Members of King's College have extended their care to the improvement of the revenue, in a more effectual manner than by an accumulating fund. The very measures to which they refer, to wit, the valuation of teinds, and the sale of superiorities have a manifest tendency to advance the income of the present incumbents, at the risk of diminishing the value of the funds in remoter times. But a proportional well regulated accumulating fund, might render such transactions unexceptionable, and equally advantageous, to the present incumbents, and their successors, at any time whatever.

They are pleased to renew the encomium on their good management, in their *Information*, where I have just read with amazement that, " the accession to the Revenue has been applied to every other purpose to which it was by the Foundation applicable in a *far higher* proportion than to the augmentation of the *Salaries* of the Masters."

Were this assertion reversed, I might admit it as true. I know well their dexterity in the use of words, and how much they excel in elaborate ambiguity : To couch four
different

different meanings in one short sentence, or by the help of Italics, two meanings absolutely contradictory in another, are ordinary exertions of their skill : But tho' I have studied the expression and even the Italics here with the utmost attention, I find it impossible to divine, by what evasion, by what sophistry, they can hope to reconcile this assertion to the facts. An example will shew the difficulty of the case.

By Bishop Elphinston's Foundation, the eight Masters now remaining on the establishment, have 205 Merks for their Salaries; the twelve Bursars 144; and 40 Merks are set apart for the *Ædilis* fund.

Since the late improvement of the Revenue the Bursars have got an addition of 20l. sterl. the *Ædilis* fund of 30, and the eight masters receive annually, at an average, 240l. of Augmentation.

Were this sum of 290l. sterl. divided in the same proportion as by the foundation, the Bursars should have about 110l. and the Masters only 150l. Whereas the Bursars get hardly one fifth part of their due, the *Ædilis* fund nearly its due, and the Masters considerably more than theirs. This accession to the Revenue, seems therefore applied to the augmentation of Salaries in a far higher proportion than to other purposes.

An explanation of this will be soon required, and then, if not declined, we shall see, how the Author of this Information will avail himself of that art in which he is allowed to excel, and in which he counsels his Associates to put their trust. "We must say strong things" is the watch word inculcated of his party.

Of all the strong things they have ventured to say, the profession of respect for the College Oath is, with regard to some of them, far the strongest : Can you believe that they understand it in the sense which they pretend ? I do not even believe that they have taken the oath which they have published. That which I understand to have been in use ever since the year 1684, and perhaps long before, is essentially different. It binds to the observation of the first Foundation *Nisi forte aliter Cancellario Universitatis aliisque legitimis superioribus visum fuerit.*

Now what must be thought of men who having twice consented to an Union of the Colleges on narrow and selfish plans,

plans, refuse to consent to a more liberal scheme, and try to cover their real, and pretty obvious motives by pretending reverence for an Oath, the obligation of which could prove no check when a considerable augmentation of Salary was in view?

Still further, what must be thought of them, if to persuade the public that such is their motive, they circulate in print and in their private correspondence, copies of this Oath altogether different from that which has been administered to them on their entrance to the Society.

In common men, in all but those of whom we wish to think very tenderly, such conduct would be ascribed without hesitation to a base and flagrant Hypocrisy.

Certainly, the Professor who circulated that copy of the College Oath, has more reason to be ashamed of his Legerdemain, than even of that foolish promise to sing doggrel verses, with which it was accompanied, and which he has never been able to perform.

Amid all these angry controversies no means are neglected which may dispose these Gentlemen to free conferences, and an amicable compromise.

Application has been made in particular to one of their number, who is much respected by us all. The liberality of his general sentiments is well known. His opinion was explicitly favourable to the last plan of Union, and cannot be supposed unfavourable to this, altho' his connections may have led him along so far.

If he can be prevailed on to assume the office of a mediator, all differences will soon be adjusted. If he can be prevailed on, merely to withdraw from active opposition, and to embrace that neutral pacific part which another respectable Member of King's College has chosen, the best consequences will probably ensue. Deprived of his countenance the other six, being such as they are, will hardly chuse to stick together alone in so notorious a cause.

However that may be, this Gentleman certainly has it in his power to effect an Union of the Colleges if he thinks fit. It is hoped he may consider how much he owes it to his own sentiments, and to the general voice of the intelligent public. Perhaps he may recollect, that the friends of Union have some claim on him, for that deference to his sentiments, and connections, which induced them to relinquish the last plan in silence and rather prematurely.